

**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF GOSSIP AMONG FEMALE
CHARACTERS IN *GOSSIP GIRL SEASON 1***

A THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment of a
Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Language and Literature



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A THESIS



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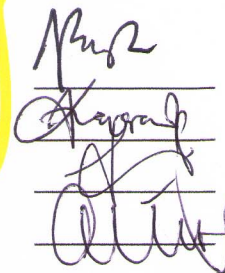
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MOTTOS

“If you don't risk your life, you can't create a future...” – One Piece

“Dreams don't work, unless you do. Find yourself and be that.” – Fifth Harmony

DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this thesis to wonderful people in my life.

My beloved parents, Bapak (Riyanto) and Ibu (*Almarhumah* Purwanti)

Thank you for everything you have given to me, I will always love you.

My beloved sisters

Thanks for supporting me.

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Finally, I realize that this thesis is far from being perfect. Weaknesses as well as mistakes are here and there. Therefore, I would gratefully appreciate the readers to confer any comments, suggestions, and criticism to this thesis.

Yogyakarta, 5 August 2015



Shinta Purnama Sari

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

No.	: Number
HT	: House Talk
SD	: Scandal
BI	: Bitching
CH	: Chatting
MP	: Meaningless Particles
NW	: Neutral Words
TQ	: Tag Questions
RI	: Requisite Information
RE	: Requests
IN	: To provide information
EN	: To give entertainment
FR	: To enhance friendship
IF	: To influence others
SC	: To make social comparison

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF GOSSIP AMONG FEMALE CHARACTERS IN *GOSSIP GIRL SEASON 1*

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ABSTRACT

This study is under a big umbrella of linguistics. More specifically, it is a sociolinguistic study. This research aims to analyze the gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. In more specific terms, this research is aimed at finding out the types, describing the speech features are used, and documenting the functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

This research applied the descriptive qualitative method. The discussion was presented in a descriptive way. Meanwhile, the quantitative data were used to strengthen the findings and to help draw inferences. The researcher analyzed the data in some steps: identifying the errors in the data collection to gain appropriate data; classifying gossip by the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* TV Series; analyzing the types, speech features, and functions of gossip employed by the female characters; and drawing conclusions of the research questions.

This study reveals three findings. First, the types of gossip that are used among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* are house talk, scandal, bitching, and chatting. The female characters mostly use chatting in delivering gossip as they have mutual relationship and close friendship among them. They rarely use scandal because they do not like to judge other women's behaviour. Second, there are four speech features of gossip used among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. They are meaningless particles, neutral words, tag questions, and requests. The female characters mostly apply neutral words. It can be a means that they have many important things that they want to talk about with other women and to continue explaining what happens in the gossip. Meanwhile, they do not use requisite information because they use tag questions when they feel hesitant. Third, there are five functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. They are to provide information, to give entertainment, to enhance friendship, to influence others, and to make social comparison. Dealing with functions of gossip, on the highest rank is to provide information as the basic purpose of gossiping is to deliver information to other women. The most rarely function found is to make social comparison. This suggests that the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* are confident with their personality and identity.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, gossip, *Gossip Girl Season 1*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The introduction of this thesis includes the background of the research, the research focus, the formulation of the problem, research objectives and the research significance. First, the background of the research deals with the general information about why the research is needed to be conducted. Second, the research focus consists of the limitation of the research scope. Third, the specific questions of the research are formulated in the formulation of the problem, which are about types, speech features, and functions of gossip. Fourth, based on the formulation of the problem, the research objectives are performed. In the last part, the significance of this research is clarified.

A. The Background of the Research

People frequently find themselves creating, hearing, or participating in a lot of comments about someone who is not present in a conversation. It is often valuable and sometimes unavoidable to be part of such communications. By involving in this occasion, they will get information about those around them and know others. It becomes a need for everyone to gain some information, so they are able to join into a complex social environment as Eric K. Foster stated that “it is an important social behavior that nearly everyone experiences, contributes to, and presumably intuitively understands” (2004: 78). This important social behavior is what people call gossip.

Gossip is omnipresent in everyone’s daily life. Through a usual conversation, people are able to deliver it. R.I.M. Dunbar states that “studies

looking at the content of daily conversations have shown that gossip takes up a big part of people's communicative behavior" (1996: 78). In addition, conversation is a uniquely human phenomenon that researchers are able to get a lot of knowledge, numerous benefits, and many aspects to analyze with different points of view. In fact, analyses of freely forming conversations indicate that approximately two thirds of conversation time is devoted to social topics, most of which can be given the generic label "gossip" (Dunbar, 2004: 103). It means that gossip becomes a language phenomenon mostly found and possessed in people's conversation, so the occurrences of gossip could not be denied.

Nowadays, gossip occurs everywhere in social world. One needs only a glance at the covers of magazines in supermarkets or logs onto the most popular Internet websites to realize that the gossip market thrives on publishing intimate details about the lives of celebrities. Aside from public forums, gossip is also hard to avoid in face-to-face social interactions. For example, when people meet each other, they will make conversations that include some references to third party-doings.

Furthermore, being drawn in gossip is addictive. People might want to stop engaging in the exchange of gossip. However, they cannot turn it off. It is a habit for them to talk about others in many kinds of occasion, such as in private conversation happening in many places. When a person starts a topic that is juicy and pleasing, the listener will get the point of what is being talked about. Then, he/she has his/her turn to give another gossip, so that the conversation keeps on and does not stop.

There are a lot of media that can share information through gossip, such as text messages, Yahoo Messengers, Facebook, Twitter, and also people's social interaction in their daily life. Using those media, people make the information that they need to share pass from them to others.

Gossip becomes a language phenomenon that happens in this time where people freely make gossip anywhere and anytime. The social status of a person will not make them unable in sharing gossip. Even though a person is in a low class, he/she is free to do gossip. Moreover, for people who are in the higher class, they are also free to do gossip as they wish in their time.

Both women and men love gossiping. In their social interaction, men have the same intentions to use gossips as their media to do gossiping. However, women are more famous with the identity that they always use gossips wherever they are. This identity happens until nowadays when women have their own right to deliver their speech in the society that creates her personality.

In a research conducted by Jack Levin and Arnold Arluke in analyzing sex differences in gossip, they found that women spent more time gossiping than men. It is also stated that women were much more likely than men to gossip about close friends and family members (1985: 108). Labov (in Luria, 2006: 262) also stated that no one can deny that husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, are involved in intimate communication in everyday life. However, gender is a powerful differentiating factor in almost every case of stable social stratification and change in progress that has been studied until now.

Women do not realize that an activity called gossip means many things. One of those is networking. When women do gossiping, they are not only doing the gossip itself but also networking. It is very important for each person, especially a woman, to do a network when they met another woman. It will be so awkward when they met, but they do nothing. In this condition, gossip has its role to be a network.

Based on the perspective from Foster (2004: 13) that women seek more personal relationships with their friends, and they will recall more details of gossip information when the gossip is among friends (in private mode of gossip transmission) that are going to be analyzed by sociolinguistic analysis, the researcher selected a TV Series entitled *Gossip Girl Season 1* as the object of this research. It represents female characters who love to do gossiping. Those female characters are Kelly Rutherford as Lillian van der Woodsen, Blake Lively as Serena van der Woodsen, Taylor Momsen as Jenny Humphrey, Nan Zhang as Kati Farkas, Leighton Meester as Blair Waldorf, Nicole Fiscella as Isabel Coates, Zuzanna Szadkowski as Dorota Kishlovsky, Margaret Colin as Eleanor Waldorf, and Michelle Hurd as Laurel. Those women are native Americans.

Gossip Girl Season 1 portrays the American Society and also women society as the story of the movie goes to gossip in the female characters. Therefore, under sociolinguistics which talks about the connection of language and society theories, the discussion of gossip is explored by the researcher.

B. The Research Focus

Sociolinguistics is the study of correlations between language use and social structure. This study attempts to establish causal links between language and society, what language contributes to make community possible, and how communities shape their languages by using them. It has also been defined as the study of language in its social context (Coates, 1993: 4). Meanwhile, people do gossiping by using their own language in their society, especially among women. This habit in gossiping is a phenomenon that is appropriate and has many aspects to be analyzed more through a sociolinguistic study.

Gossip appears not only in everyday conversation among American women in a real life, but also in a TV Series. Female characters of *Gossip Girl Season 1* talked about gossip among them. Those female characters are Lillian van der Woodsen, Jenny Humphrey, Blair Waldorf, Serena van der Woodsen, Kati Farkas, Dorota Kishlovsky, Isabel Coates, Eleanor Waldorf, and Laurel.

The researcher focuses on three problems which appear in the *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The first problem deals with types of gossip that are used by female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. To identify this problem, the researcher uses Deborah Jones's theory (in Talbot, 2010: 75) that classified the types of gossip.

The second problem deals with speech features of gossip. These speech features can be defined as a distinctive characteristic of a linguistic unit that serves to distinguish it from other units of the same kind in doing gossip. *Gossip Girl Season 1* has many speech features used in doing gossip among female

characters. The researcher uses Lakoff's theory (in Cameron, 1990: 248) that classified speech features of gossip.

The third problem deals with functions of gossip in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. Not only do women gossip, but the act of gossiping itself also has many functions, which are maintaining morals and values of groups in an informal way. This allows conventions to be upheld, unruly members to be chastised and kept in their places, and leaders to be chosen (Gluckman, 1963: 308). Even in groups which are not strongly held together, which is often the case with soap opera viewers, gossip plays a role. Gluckman states that gossip "...produces a basis on which people transitorily associated can find something personal to talk about" (1963: 315). Moreover, he also writes that people like to talk about personal matters, and to discuss about film stars, royalty, sport, etc.

C. Formulations of the Problems

Based on the research focus, the problems are formulated as follows.

1. What are the types of gossip among the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*?
2. What are the speech features of gossip among the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*?
3. What are the functions of gossip among the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*?

D. Research Objectives

Related to the research focus above, this research has three objectives:

1. to find out the types of gossip from the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*,
2. to describe the speech features of gossip from the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*, and
3. to document the functions of gossip from the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

E. The Research Significance

This research is concerned with the analysis of gossip among female characters in the TV Series entitled *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The final result of this research is hopefully able to bring significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

The research findings are expected to provide the readers with fresh and important insights related to gossip as a phenomenon in conversation performed by women.

2. Practical Significance

a. Readers of this study

This research hopefully can enrich the research in linguistics fields, especially in relation to the phenomena of gossip that exist in the society.

b. Students of English Department

Especially for those who major in linguistics, it can give additional knowledge in sociolinguistics which is related to gossip. Then, linguistics students can make another research on gossip under different branches such as pragmatics, semiotics, and stylistics.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter is concerned with the literature review and conceptual framework used to conduct the research of gossip among female characters in the TV Series entitled *Gossip Girl Season 1*. This chapter is divided into four parts. The first section is the theoretical background that consists of some theories used as guidance in conducting this research. The second section is the previous research findings that are used as references of approach and method. The third section is conceptual framework. It shows the concepts which are used to conduct this study. Finally, the last section presents the analytical construct. It is represented in a diagram.

A. The Theoretical Background

This section consists of some theories which are related and support the research. Those theories are about sociolinguistics, language and society, language variety, women's language, gossip, women condition in 21st century in American society, and also a brief description about *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

1. Sociolinguistics

There are many experts proposing definitions of sociolinguistics. Chaika (1982: 2) states that sociolinguistics is the study of the way people use language in social interaction. It is concerned with apparently trivial matters, the things that people do when they want to talk and the ways they signal that they are listening. Hymes (1962: 25) asserts that sociolinguists study verbal behavior in terms of the

relations between the settings, the participants, the topic, the functions of the interaction, the form, and the values held by the participants about each of these.

Sociolinguistics has also been defined as the study of language in its social context. It analyses speech in order to show that linguistic variation does not occur randomly but is structured: the aim of sociolinguistics is to expose the orderly heterogeneity of the normal speech community (Coates, 1993: 4). In addition, the sociolinguists' aim is to move towards a theory which provides a motivated account of the way language is used in a community, and of the choices people make when they use language (Holmes, 1992: 16). For example, when people observe how varied language use is, they must search for the causes.

According to Van Dijk (1985: 6), sociolinguists concentrate on the specific language variant or code associated with a social group or category (talk of women, children or blacks) or with specific town or region. Moreover, what is essential for sociolinguistic research is not only to recognize the plurality and problematic status of functions, but also to take functional questions, questions of social meaning and role, as starting point. Efforts toward a general theory of language as part of social life will remain truncated; otherwise, an assortment of disjointed parts (or whatever other metaphor of a body and spirit left dismembered and headless one may wish). Meanwhile, Chambers (in Wardhaugh, 2006: 11) states that sociolinguistics is the study of the social uses of language, and the most productive studies in the four decades of sociolinguistic research have emanated from determining the social evaluation of linguistic variants.

Everything people do requires the involvement of other people, directly or indirectly. What we find, then, is a huge range of ways of talking that promote the formation and maintenance of social relationships. They have to remind themselves about how important groups and relationships are to living their lives.

2. Language and Society

In understanding language, the aspect of society has to be involved. Chaika (1982: 1) states “language and society are so intertwined that it is impossible to understand one without the other. There is no human society that does not depend upon, is not shaped by, and does not itself shape language”. Furthermore, Dunbar (2004: 104) argues:

Language is concerned with the exchange of information; that, after all, is what it (or, at least, grammar) is mainly designed to do. However, linguists and those in most other disciplines interested in language have traditionally assumed that the information to be exchanged is factual knowledge about the world; in other words, language evolved to allow our ancestors to exchange information about aspects of the physical world in which they lived.

The definition above explains one further key feature of language is particularly important to the bonding of the large social groups, namely the fact that language allows people to exchange information. That, after all, is what language itself is basically designed to do. Its role in social bonding is that it allows them to keep track of what is going on within their social networks, as well as using it to service their relationships.

Meanwhile, a society is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes. People use language to reveal or conceal their personal identity, character, and background, often wholly unconscious that they

are doing so. As a result, every social institution is maintained by language. Law, religion, government, education, the family – all are carried on with language.

The definition of language includes in it a reference to society. When people have to talk about the relationship of language and society, they must acknowledge that a language is essentially a set of items, what Hudson (in Wardhaugh, 2006: 10) calls linguistic items, such entities as sounds, words, grammatical structures, and so on. On the other hand, social theorists, particularly sociologists, attempt to understand how societies are structured and how people manage to live together. Thus, they use such concepts as ‘identity,’ ‘power,’ ‘class,’ ‘status,’ ‘solidarity,’ ‘accommodation,’ ‘face,’ ‘gender,’ ‘politeness,’ etc.

3. Language Variety

Hudson (in Wardhaugh, 2006: 25) defines a variety of language as “a set of linguistic items with similar distribution,” a definition that allows people to say that all of the following are varieties: Canadian English, London English, the English of football commentaries, and so on. This definition also allows people “to treat all the languages of some multilingual speakers, or community, as a single variety, since all the linguistic items concerned have a similar social distribution.” As its own name implies, language variation focuses on how language varies in different contexts, where context refers to things like ethnicity, social class, sex, geography, age, and a number of other factors.

Besides, Ferguson (in Wardhaugh, 2006: 27) also offers another definition of variety: “anybody of human speech patterns which is sufficiently homogeneous to be analyzed by available techniques of synchronic description

and which has a sufficiently large repertory of elements and their arrangements or processes with broad enough semantic scope to function in all formal contexts of communication.” Complete homogeneity is not required; there is always some variation whether people consider a language as a whole, a dialect of that language, the speech of a group within that dialect, or ultimately, each individual in that group. Such variation is a basic fact of linguistic life.

Hudson and Ferguson (in Wardhaugh, 2006: 25-27) agree in defining variety in terms of a specific set of ‘linguistic items’ or ‘human speech patterns’ (presumably, sounds, words, grammatical features, etc.) which people can uniquely associate with some external factor (presumably, a geographical area or a social group). Consequently, if researchers can identify such a unique set of items or patterns for each group in question, it might be possible to say there are such varieties as Standard English, Cockney, lower-class New York speech, Oxford English, legalese, cocktail party talk, and so on. One important task, then, in sociolinguistics is to determine if such unique sets of items or patterns do exist.

According to Elgin (1993: 21), a variety of language consists of idiolects, dialects, registers, and genderlects.

a. Idiolects

The term *idiolect* means the language behavior results from using that idiosyncratic grammar (Elgin, 1993: 21). Every human being has grammar that is different from the grammar of every other person speaking the same language. Words in idiolect will inevitably have slightly different meanings from words in

other idiolect because the experiences that are associated with the words differ from one individual to another.

Idiolect comes from two Greek words, *idio*, which means personal and *lect*, which means language. It is essentially a personal language. The greatest influence on people's language is their immediate family, and the other people whom they spend time with. For scholars who view language from the perspective of linguistic competence, essentially the knowledge of language and grammar that exists in the mind of an individual language user, the idiolect is a way of referring to this specific knowledge.

b. Dialects

When a group of idiolects are so much alike that people using them ordinarily do not realize that they are different, it is called a set of a *dialect*. In fact, everyone speaks at least one dialect, and that dialect is the sum of the idiolects of all the individuals who share nearly identical grammars (Elgin, 1993: 22). Dialect has different syntax, morphology and/or lexis. For example, in Mancunian English the word "barm cake" means "bread roll" and is not widely understood outside Greater Manchester. Grammar is also another aspect in which dialects may differ. In Standard English, a speaker would say: "I was standing at the bus stop". In many Northern English dialects this is often rendered as: "I was stood at the bus stop".

c. Registers

In addition to speaking an idiolect and at least one dialect, everyone speaks one or more registers of a language (Elgin, 1993: 23). Different situations call for

adjustments to the type of language used; for example, the type of language that an individual uses varies according to whether he/she is speaking to family members, addressing a public gathering, or discussing science with professional colleagues. Elgin believes that when language behaviour can be systematically described, and when it is clearly to a specific role of the speaker or writer, it is called a register.

d. Genderlects

The concept of genderlect, a term popularized by linguist Deborah Tannen to represent dialects specific to gender and to demystify traditional communication struggles between the sexes, helps bridge the linguistic gap between women and men.

Tannen believes that women and men have different speech styles, and defines them as "rapport-talk" and "report-talk". Women in conversations today use language for intimacy or "rapport-talk". Girls are socialized as children to believe that "talk is the glue that holds relationships together" (1990: 85), so that as adults conversations for women are "negotiations for closeness in which people try to seek and give confirmation and support, and to reach consensus" (1990: 25).

For men, conversations today are for information or "report-talk". Men negotiate to maintain the upper hand in a conversation and protect themselves from others' perceived attempts to put them down. Boys learn in childhood to maintain relationships primarily through their activities, so conversation for adult

males becomes a contest; a man is an individual in a hierarchical social order "in which he (is) either one-up or one-down" (Tannen, 1990: 24).

Besides, Griffin (1997: 430) stated that "genderlect is a term suggesting that masculine and feminine styles of discourse are best viewed as two distinct cultural dialects". Men and women communication is also a "cross-cultural communication". In other words, this theory is to attempt on how people talk or communicate with their opposite gender.

Women are good listeners compared to men. They show either verbal or non-verbal response. Tannen (1990: 190) explains that when women start to talk or response to the other person before he or she finished talking, it means that the women support or disagree with it. Therefore, Tannen labels it as a "Cooperative Overlap". This term can be defined as two conversants speaking simultaneously during their conversation. Some overlaps are considered cooperative because usually they will include just a few words of encouragement or elaboration on the topic and not a full sentence about a different subject. She defines the two types of people mentioned above as "high involvement" and "high considerateness" speakers (1990: 194).

"High involvement" speakers give priority in a conversation to express enthusiastic support even if it involves simultaneous speech, while "high considerateness" speakers are more concerned with being considerate of others. They prefer not to impose on the conversation as a whole or on specific comments of another conversant. Tannen believes that "high-involvement speakers do not mind being overlapped because they will yield to an intrusion on

the conversation if they feel like it and put off responding or ignore it completely if they do not” (1990: 198).

In addition, speakers from some cultural groups rarely pause between turns because for them silence is seen as a sign of lack of rapport in a friendly conversation. As Tannen said that “overlapping is a way to keep conversation going without risking silence” (1990: 205), the overlaps to which Tannen refers are frequent but brief.

Furthermore, men usually like to start a conflict but women try to avoid it. Women, for example, tend to see social relationships in terms of intimacy, connection and disclosure, whereas men see them in terms of hierarchy, status and independence. Tannen also argues the same phenomenon. She stated that if women speak and hear a language of connection and intimacy, men speak and hear a language of status and interdependence, then communication between men and women can be like cross-cultural communication, prey to a clash of conversational styles (1990: 42). That is why it has been said they speak different genderlects instead of different dialects.

4. Women’s Language

Linguistic research on "women's language" has been a very productive component of gender research more broadly. The earliest language and gender research (e.g. Lakoff 1975; Kramer 1975) identified ways in which women's and men's patterns of verbal interaction reflected male dominance in society as a whole (Holmes, 1992: 533). In mixed-gender conversations, women were typically interrupted more often; for instance, they needed to devote greater

efforts than men to get attention for their topics; and in general, women conversationalists did not receive the same degree of verbal support as their male interlocutors.

Holmes (in Mesthrie, 2003: 229) states that women and men talk differently. Research in Britain, America and New Zealand reveal similar gender-based patterns of discourse. Women appear cooperative, facilitative participants, demonstrating in a variety of ways their concern for their conversational partners, while men tend to dominate the talking time, interrupt more often than women.

Moreover, Lakoff (in Mesthrie, 2003: 230) claims that women use a number of language features that, collectively, indicate uncertainty and hesitancy. These features deny women the opportunity to express themselves strongly, and make what they are talking about appear trivial.

Interpretations in terms of power or dominance have been common among other researchers. In an analysis of conversations between couples, Pamela Fishman (in Mesthrie, 2003: 231) found that women gave more conversational support than men. They express interest in their partner's conversational topic, and made more frequent use of minimal responses such as *mmh*, *yeah*, and *right*, indicating their involvement. She also saw women's conversational supportiveness as an expected characteristic of being female: women are expected to keep conversation going. However, she also related her interpretation to power. Power, she argued, is a human accomplishment, situated in everyday interaction.

The British linguist Jennifer Coates (in Mesthrie, 2003: 229) has also been concerned with differences in women's and men's speech. Her position is more explicitly a feminist one. She argues that interpretations of women's and men's speech that relate this primarily to power and male dominance have given rise to rather negative view of female speaking styles. One of her aims has been to 'revalue' women's talk. Furthermore, early work on women's language had labelled it as 'tentative' or 'powerless'. More recently, and in reaction to this, there has been a move to value women's talk more positively, using terms such as 'co-operative'. In addition, much of Coates' work has focused on informal conversation in all female groups. Her account of women's talk is highly positive. She found that the conversations she analysed were characterised by cooperation, with women concerned to support one another's contributions rather than compete for the floor.

5. Gossip

The meaning of gossip itself is different for each linguist. Dunbar (in Foster, 2004: 80) defines it as conversation about social and personal topics. In some feminist criticism, gossip is nearly synonymous with "women's talk" in general or "girl talk". Rysman (in Foster, 2004: 80) also traced the etymology of the term as it refers specifically to women. Additionally, it has been suggested that 'language evolved to allow us to gossip' (Dunbar, 1996: 79).

Gossip has been defined as "a form of sociable interaction which depends upon the strategic management of information through the creation of others as 'moral characters' in talk" (Yerkovich, 1977: 192). The other expert, Deborah

Tannen (1990: 97), says “telling details about other’s lives is partly the result of women’s telling their friends details of their own lives. These details become gossip when the friend to whom they are told repeats them to someone else – presumably another friend”.

Meanwhile, Jones (in Foster, 2004: 80) defines gossip as “a way of talking between women in their roles as women, intimate in style, personal and domestic in topic and setting which springs from and perpetuates the restrictions of the female role, but also gives the comfort of validation”. Jones’ work is followed up by Coates’ study of all-female conversations (in Foster, 2004: 81), in which gossip is linked with the notion of cooperativity, and with the aim of maintaining good social relations and displaying solidarity through shared goals and identities.

Academicians engaged in defining gossip have also focused on the evaluative element of gossip, which perhaps distinguishes it from other forms of informal, chatty conversation. Eder and Enke (in Foster, 2004: 85) define gossip as "evaluative talk about a person who is not present" and, less narrowly and more accurately, as "the process of informally communicating value-laden information about members of a social setting". In general, if personal information about a third party is being shared and conversation would take place where the person is not present, the topic would likely be defined as gossip. Moreover, Nevo and Derech-Zehavi (in Foster, 2004: 79) explain that context is a crucial factor, as a piece of information may or may not be gossip, depending on who is telling the information to whom and the context and intentions.

The most commonly used definition of gossip is personal information about an absent third party that is conveyed in an evaluative manner (Foster, 2004: 88), however the nuances of when gossip is occurring may be more subtle.

According to research in the United Kingdom by Emler (in Foster, 2004: 79-80), 70% of conversations are gossip, which has been defined as “positive or negative information exchanged about an absent third party”. Moreover, gossip is also strongly related to friendship as it has an important role in building and enhancing relationships through a friendship or intimacy function.

However, an earlier study by Levin and Arluke (1985: 285) found a pattern of both similarities and differences, and some evidence that might suggest gender differences in gossip and friendship. While females had a slightly higher level of gossip, the balance of positive and negative gossip was the same for males and females. The differences that were found can be related to the friendship function of gossip, as with the females, the tendency was to talk about people they were closest to in terms of their social networks. Males, however, were reluctant to be as intimate in the conversation and tended to discuss more distant individuals.

According to Wright (2006: 47), female friendships are more intimate because women are more likely to be involved in more communal activities such as “...a baby shower...” versus the more agentic, instrumental activities such as “...shingling a roof...”. Another aspect of friendship is that women are more likely to have broader, more holistic friendships rather than more circumscribed

friendships; for example, having specific work friends, sports friends, etc. (Wright, 2006: 41).

Bank and Hansford (in Wright, 2006: 64) stated another set of factors that tend to produce more agentic friendships in males are dispositional factors such as "...emotional restraint, masculine identity and homophobia...". Lastly, there is also the tendency of males to have a form of friendship that involves being fused within the performance of roles within an organization to a greater degree compared to females (Wright, 2006: 65). With the fused friendship, the individuals become friends in the context of a structured role, for example at work, in a club, etc. This reduces the likelihood of the friendship being more communal as the individuals must balance out successfully performing the role, with maintaining the friendship (Wright, 2006: 43).

Jones (in Adams, 2009: 75) describes a feminist definition of gossip that presents it as "a way of talking between women, intimate in style, personal and domestic in scope and setting, a female cultural event which springs from and perpetuates the restrictions of the female role, but also gives the comfort of validation". If people relate this to contemporary era, with the spread of advanced communication technology and media, the existence of gossip culture in woman culture become more prevalent as it becomes more accessible.

As a unique social network, there are some characteristics of gossip (Izuogu, 2009: 16).

1. The conversation takes place in private. Gossip is usually a private conversation with a conspiratorial tone that happens between two or more people.
2. Gossip often thrives on secrecy and ignorance.
3. The people talking are transmitting information as though it was fact, but they have not confirmed the information as factual.
4. The people gossiping compare themselves in some way to the person being gossiped about, usually considering themselves to be superior to the subject.
5. Those who gossip naturally feel a momentary sense of guilt when they see the person they gossiped against.

Here are the types, the speech features and the functions of gossip.

a. Types of Gossip

What women have in common is sharing of personal experience in conversation (sometimes, incidentally, in narrative form). Gossip is a type of conversation stereotypically associated with women. According to Jones (in Talbot, 2010: 75), women's gossip is a "language of intimacy" arising from the solidarity and identity of women as members of a social group with a pool of common experience. Moreover, this American feminist identifies four distinct kinds of gossip. Jones (in Talbot, 2010: 76) is quoted as identifying:

... four distinct kinds of conversation among women, which she views as different varieties of gossip. These are 'house talk', occupational talk which is the housewife's equivalent of 'talking shop'; 'scandal', which involves the verbal policing of other women's behavior; 'bitching', a form of troubles-talk involving complaints about men to other women; and finally 'chatting', which is purely phatic.

Jones (in Talbot, 2010: 76) finds that there are four types of gossip. Those types are house-talk, scandal, bitching and chatting.

1) House Talk

Its distinguishing function is the exchange of information and resources connected with the female role as an occupation. The word of 'occupation' means the position that a woman has in a situation, organization, society or relationship. It also functions in meeting emotional needs for support and recognition. The example is presented below.

Blair : What was that I heard? **Is it really if Eric's coming home?**
 Perfect timing.
 Serena : How so?
 Blair : Well, **it gives your mother and brother time to bond alone tonight.**
 Serena : Yes, you are right.

(Gossip Girl, S1 E05)

In this example, Blair and Serena are gossiping about Eric, Serena's brother, who finally can go home. Serena is able to feel what Blair said to her that her mother and brother would gain time to bond alone.

2) Scandal

It is a considered judging of the behavior of others, and particularly in women. This type is also to make clear women's interest in each other's lives. It is usually made in terms of the domestic morality, of which women have been appointed guardians. The example of scandal is presented below.

Jenny : Oh, my phone.
 Blair : "S.O.S. Still in prison." **Is that Eric van der Woodsen? I thought he went home for the weekend.**
 Jenny : **Guess it didn't happen.**

(Gossip Girl, S1 E05)

Jenny and Blair are interested in knowing more about Eric. The messages from Eric to Jenny tell that he could not go home for the weekend. The situation in *Gossip Girl Season 1* was that Jenny and Blair were friends of Serena, Eric's sister.

3) Bitching

This is the overt expression of women's anger at their restricted role and inferior status. They express this frustration in private and to other women only. The women who bitch are not expecting change; they want only to make their complaints in an environment where their anger be understood and expected. The example of bitching is presented below.

Blair : Don't insult me, **it's been like this all morning, starting with your lovely visit with my mother. She didn't even call me to tell me she was coming home.**

Serena : Well, she was busy. She was rushing to get home and everything because she wanted to see you.

Blair : **She did not wake me up.**

Serena : Well, you know how Eleanor feels about beauty rest.

(*Gossip Girl*, S1 E04)

Blair tells her complaints to Serena about her mother who did not call and wake her up. In this example, Blair only tells Serena in private.

4) Chatting

This is the most intimate form of gossip, a mutual self-disclosure. It is a transaction where women use their the skills that they have learned as part of their job of nurturing others. Chatting is a kind of parallel storytelling where one woman tells a personal story with an underlying emotional plot. Then, the result is that the other woman replies with her own unique story echoing only the underlying emotional content.

The conversation below shows a chatting example.

Serena : Hey! Just the little sister I was looking for. I need answers, and I need them now. **Your brother is being very mysterious about our date tonight.**

Jenny : Well, **he's a very mysterious guy, apparently.**

Serena : Look, **he won't tell me where we're going.** Can you just give me a hint? Are we going to some secret club to see the best unsigned band in Brooklyn? Or a guerilla art exhibit in Dumbo? Or, hey, isn't the New York Film Festival still going on?

Jenny : **You don't leave much room for surprise, do you?**

(*Gossip Girl*, S1 E05)

The situation in *Gossip Girl Season 1* was that Serena and Jenny were talking about Dan, Jenny's brother. Serena told Jenny that she was curious about the date with Dan because he did not tell her where they were going. Then, Jenny informed her that he was a kind of mysterious guy. The example above belongs to chatting as the female characters becomes closer to each other by telling the personal information about Dan.

b. The Speech Features of Gossip

According to Robert Lakoff's (1975) theories taken from Deborah Cameron's book (1990: 248-251), there are five speech features of gossip found in women's utterances. Those are meaningless particles, neutral words, tag questions, requisite information, and requests.

1) Meaningless Particles

Meaningless particles are lexical items which do not have meaning. These features are often used as pause filler in the speech (Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 248). The examples are as follows.

(1) **Oh dear**, you've put the peanut butter in the refrigerator again.

(2) **Wow**, what a beautiful flower it is!

(Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 248)

The words **oh dear** and **wow** can be the pause fillers in the sentence in which the speakers only want to express their feeling in conveying the sentences. Thus, meaningless particles are not necessarily used in sentences.

2) Neutral Words

Neutral words here deal with the words which are possibly used by women although those are usually spoken by men. The similar sort of disparities exists elsewhere in the vocabulary (Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 248). There is, for instance, a group of adjectives which have, besides their specific and literal meanings, another use, that of indicating the speaker's approbation or admiration for something. Some of these adjectives are neutral as to sex of speaker: either men or women may use them. Where a woman has a choice between the neutral words and the women's words, as a man has not, she may be suggesting very different things about her own personality and her view of the subject-matter by her choice of words. Some of neutral words are *great*, *terrific*, *cool*, and *neat*. Meanwhile, the women's words are such as *adorable*, *charming*, *sweet*, *lovely*, and *divine*.

(1) What a **terrific** idea!

(2) What a **divine** idea!

(Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 248)

The word **terrific** in (1) is used by women speaker in order to convey something important, for instance. However, the word **divine** in (2) is more restricted. It is used by women since they feel about an unimportant idea. Thus, the use of neutral words by women shows that women have willingness to express their feeling in the speech.

3) Tag Questions

Lakoff gives a definition of ‘tag-question’ stated in Cameron’s book as follows:

A tag, in its usage as well as its syntactic shape (in English) is midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question; it is less assertive than the former, but more confident than the latter..., It is polite to leave a decision open, not impose your mind, or views, or claims, on anyone else. (1990: 249)

Therefore, it is usable under certain contextual situations. It is not those in which a statement would be appropriate, nor those in which a yes-no question is generally used, but in situations intermediate between these.

Moreover, tag questions are a kind of speech features which are used by women when she is stating a claim, but lacks full confidence in the truth of the claim. In using the tag questions, the speaker is already biased in favor of a positive answer, and wants only information by the addressee.

- (1) **John is here, isn’t he?**
- (2) **I can meet him now, can’t I?**

(Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 249)

In another condition, sometimes tag questions are used when the speaker knows as well as the addressee what the answer must be, and does not need confirmation.

- (1) **Sure is hot here, isn’t it?**
- (2) **The party is great, isn’t it?**

(Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 250)

The examples above show tag questions which are used in situations when the speaker is making ‘small talk’, trying to start conversations from the addressee. Therefore, a tag-question is a kind of polite statement, in that it does

not force agreement or belief on the addressee and women use tag questions in gossiping.

4) Requisite Information

Requisite information is a peculiar sentence intonation-pattern which has the form of a declarative answer to a question, and is used as such, but has the rising inflection typical of yes-no question, as well as being especially hesitant (Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 250). The speaker is the only one who has the requisite information when someone (the listener) was seeing confirmation.

(1) **When will dinner be ready?**

(2) **Oh . . . around six o'clock . . .?**

(Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 250)

The example above shows that (1) is in the position of having to provide confirmation. However, (2) sounds unsure about the time that the dinner will ready and wants the listener (1) to give the confirmation. These features are probably part of the general fact that women's speech sounds much more 'polite' than men's. Thus, by using requisite information, the speaker wants to give the listener the decision in the speech.

5) Requests

A request may be in the same sense a polite command, in that it does not overtly require obedience, but rather suggests something be done as a favor to the speaker (Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 251). In request form, the speaker tries to make the listener do something in polite way. The example is as follows.

(1) **Will you please close the door?**

(2) **Could you please give me his address?**

(Lakoff in Cameron, 1990: 251)

The word **please** gives politeness which involves an absence of a strong statement. Thus it is used to express politeness.

c. Functions of Gossip

It is not surprising that the functions of gossip vary considerably from person to person, situation to situation, and author to author. Some of the functions are as follows.

1) To provide information

As a mechanism of information exchange, gossip is frequently described as an efficient and, at times, exclusive means of gathering or disseminating information. Hannerz (in Foster, 2004: 84) mentioned that “the individual gets a map of his social environment from gossip”. At the group level, Roberts (in Foster, 2004: 84) stated that gossip has been called “a slow scanning of the total informational resource of the group”, while Szwed (in Foster, 2004: 85) called it as “a sort of tally sheet for public opinion”.

Meanwhile, Bergmann (in Foster, 2004: 83), in a related vein, believed that it is the unequal distribution of knowledge that makes the information spread through gossip valuable. The gossip producer’s “reputation and position within the gossip triad is essentially determined by the potential and factual access he has” to information about others’ private lives.

Gossip enables people to learn about their cultural and social world and those who share it because it acts as a mechanism of information dissemination (Foster, 2004: 84). Gossip can be an effective way to uncover information about

other group members (Dunbar in Foster, 2004: 87), thus it allows the gossip to develop a “map of his social environment”.

The example of function of gossip as to provide information is presented below.

Blair : Why you couldn't come tonight?
 Serena : Blair, the **plan is Dan. Remember, the guy you realized is actually a human being and worthy of your time and attention?**
 Blair : Look, I'm really sorry, but **this date is unbreakable.**
 Serena : **Maybe we can swing by later or something.**
(*Gossip Girl*, S1 E05)

The example above shows that to provide information occurs as the function of gossip. Serena provided information to Blair that she could not come tonight for attending Blair's event because she already had plan with Dan. This function makes Blair get the reason of why Serena could not come for the night. The type of information is the positive one since it makes Blair uncovers Serena's reason.

2) To give entertainment

There is no denying one of gossip's most basic features: it is just fun. Gossip, like other forms of storytelling, is an enjoyable activity and obvious source of pleasure that is stated by Ben-Ze'ev (in Foster, 2004: 85).

Gossip as entertainment can be readily inferred by observing conversationalists passing the time gossiping. As Spacks (in Foster, 2004: 85) said that the gossipee might certainly be sensitive about the information being passed, this does not obviate the fact that gossip can exist solely for the entertainment or

recreational value of the gossipers though. It is “the sheer fun which for most gossipers explains their involvement”.

Gilmore (in Foster, 2004: 85) explained that gossip provides the primary source of entertainment: “Nothing is enjoyed so thoroughly or treasured so preciously”. Perhaps, as Spacks (in Foster, 2004: 85) maintained, women cannot fully account for the entertainment value of gossip. It is because to explain what is rewarding in gossip is “like efforts to elucidate what’s funny in a joke”.

The amusement or entertainment function of gossip is associated with the notion that gossip is separated from work tasks. Researchers through Foster (2004: 85) have referred to gossip as being “sheer fun” (Spacks), pleasurable (Ben Ze’ev) and thoroughly enjoyable (Gilmore) both for individuals (Eder & Enke) as well as groups (Gilmore). This suggests that gossip often serves no immediate purpose but can exist simply as recreational value for the gossipers, even providing distraction and relief from monotonous and routine tasks (Roy in Foster, 2004: 85).

The example below is the function of gossip as to give entertainment.

Blair : **Too beyonc? Too mary-Kate. Too hannah montana. Wow. Even I'm impressed.**

Jenny : Um, I don't know. I mean, don't really... feel right.
(*Gossip Girl*, S1 E05)

To give entertainment occurs as the function of gossip because Blair and Jenny are talking about the styles of many public figures such as Beyonce, Mary-Kate, and Hannah Montana. They are happy when they feel that the style that Jenny wears is pretty much like those public figures styles. Blair is impressed with the style that Jenny wears.

3) To enhance friendship

The friendship or intimacy function of gossip refers both to dyadic interchanges and to the way in which gossip brings groups together through the sharing of norms, thereby establishing boundaries to distinguish insiders from outsiders. Hannerz (in Foster, 2004: 86) states that sharing gossip is a way to telegraph to the listener the gossipers' confidence in the recipient.

According to Foster's theory (2004: 87), gossip is strongly related to friendship as it has an important role in building and enhancing relationships through a friendship or intimacy function. Moreover, Ginsberg et al. (in Watson, 2012: 1) who conducted research in the USA states that friendship is a type of interpersonal relationship that serves important functions in human experience throughout the lifespan such as providing companionship and affirmation of self-worth. One theory of friendship (based upon this research) that relates to the possible underlying factors in gender differences in friendship and gossip may be the conceptualization of friendship with two different dimensions: communion and agency (Wright in Watson, 2012: 1). A recent meta-analysis by Hall (in Watson, 2012: 3), using 76% North American and 24% cross-cultural samples, identified two main gender differences in friendship: communion is higher in females, agency is higher in males. Communion refers to the intimacy or closeness needs that are met through friendship.

Furthermore, Dunbar (in Watson, 2012: 3) conducted research in the United Kingdom that points to the asymmetry of male and female conversation.

Males are more self-focused; females converse more about others. Females emphasize the building and maintaining social networks and males are more concerned about display and status. Dunbar (2010: 75-76) argues that gender differences in conversation can be considered along evolutionary lines, with males using conversation as a form of self-promotion for the purpose of attracting a mate. It is a kind of vocal form of the peacock's tail. He refers to male speech as a form of advertizing, particularly if females are more showy, more designed to stimulate laughter as a response. In addition, the talk becomes more intrusive, more competitive and political in the presence of females.

The example of gossip is presented below.

Serena : Hey! Just the little sister I was looking for. I need answers, and I need them now. **Your brother is being very mysterious about our date tonight.**

Jenny : Well, **he's a very mysterious guy, apparently.**

Serena : Look, **he won't tell me where we're going.** Can you just give me a hint? Are we going to some secret club to see the best unsigned band in Brooklyn? Or a guerilla art exhibit in Dumbo? Or, hey, isn't the New York Film Festival still going on?

Jenny : **You don't leave much room for surprise, do you?**

(Gossip Girl, S1 E05)

The example above shows that they are talking about the mysterious guy named Dan who will go with Serena. Serena asks more about Dan to Dan's sister, Jenny. Talking about Dan makes them enhance their friendship.

In addition, the taboo nature of the act of gossiping requires an established level of trust between the gossipers. Reis and Shaver (in Foster, 2004: 86) explained that in the same way as self-disclosure increases intimacy, gossip also involves a level of vulnerability and an expectation of responsiveness. Thus,

sharing gossip indicates to both parties that they have established trust and intimacy is increased.

4) To influence others

Establishing friendship at the dyadic or group level is closely related to boundary enforcement and gossip's influence function. As a means of corralling (or expelling) the wayward and eccentric, gossip is acknowledged to be an efficient social mechanism. It is not much of a deductive leap to realize that what one hears about others can just as easily be said to others about oneself; in this way, people can learn how to behave — what to do and what not to do — from listening to gossip.

Below is the example of function of gossip as to influence others.

Jenny : **I don't like this dress, Blair.** This is too much for me.

Blair : Well, **my mother always says, "fashion knows not of comfort." All that matters is the face you show the world, and your face looks like it's going to a bat mitzvah.**

(Gossip Girl, S1 E05)

When Jenny tries to wear Blair's dress, she feels uncomfortable with it. Jenny feels that the dress is too much for her as she is not usually wear that kind of dress. Then, Blair influences Jenny by saying what Blair's mother usually said to her about fashion that knows not of comfort. Blair's mother is a designer, so Blair believes what Blair's mother said. By influencing that Jenny should still be confidence with the dress shows the function of gossip as to influence others.

One of the conditions for gossip to be influential is that people must agree on the norms for behavior and what constitutes acceptability; gossipers typically articulate these things. Eckert (in Foster, 2004: 87), for instance, in her study of

adolescent girls' gossip, referred to a "good person" as having acquired symbolic capital in the eyes of his or her age group and, therefore, having relatively more power to influence others. Such people are repositories of group norms, and their opinions therefore have more weight in shepherding conformity. Conformity is essential for the survival of the group as a whole, which may account for the particularly vitriolic form of gossip observed in groups under pressure to survive and in open competition with one another.

5) To make social comparison

According to social comparison theory from Festinger (1954), and Suls and Wheeler (2000) in Burke (2014: 39), people are driven to evaluate themselves using objective measures, but should none be available, one will use other people as a form of social reality testing. Burke (2014: 41) also said about Wert and Salovey's theory (2004) that gossip is frequently about topics for which there is no objective measure, such as proper social behavior, and provides an opportunity for the listener to judge the appropriateness of his or her own actions in relation to those of others. Additionally, it is with others who are similar that comparisons are typically made, as they provide the most accurate information. This suggests that when gossiping, it is those who are most similar to the gossipers who are most likely to be a target.

Social comparisons can be used to increase positive self evaluations. According to Wills' downward social comparison theory (1981) in Burke (2014: 43), making social comparisons to a less fortunate other improves ones self-evaluations by creating a feeling of relative superiority. If the gossip is negative, a

downward social comparison to the target can allow the gossipers to feel relatively superior. Again, it is those who are most similar that provide the most relevant comparison point and most effectively boost self-evaluations.

The example of gossip function as to make social comparison is presented below.

- Laurel : **This one missed her cue at the Chloe' Show, because she was throwing up a pear.** She was in vera's "vogue" spread.
 Eleanor : I don't use vera's models. **None of these are right..**
 (Gossip Girl, S1 E04)

Laurel and Eleanor compare the wellknown models to get the one who will represent the brand of Eleanor Waldorf. She starts with the model in the Chloe Show and Vogue. However, she does not like the model. She feels that none of them are right. By making comparison of the models, Eleanor and Laurel want to evaluate whether those are right or not. The result is that none of the models are right.

6. Women's Condition in 21st Century in American Society

There are language and society aspects in sociolinguistics. The language aspects which become the objectives in this study are the types, the speech features, and functions of gossip. Furthermore, the society aspect in this study is the women in 21st century in American society who appear in the *Gossip Girl Season 1*, especially Kelly Rutherford as Lillian van der Woodsen, Blake Lively as Serena van der Woodsen, Taylor Momsen as Jenny Humphrey, Nan Zhang as Kati Farkas, Leighton Meester as Blair Waldorf, Nicole Fiscella as Isabel Coates, Zuzanna Szadkowski as Dorota Kishlovsky, Margaret Colin as Eleanor Waldorf, and Michelle Hurd as Laurel as the female characters.

It is as stated by Crystal (1995: 3) that any important aspect of social structure and function is likely to have a distinctive counterpart. He also said that people belong to different social classes, perform different social roles, and carry on different occupations. Moreover, language performance (and competence) is likely to be affected by any or all of these aspects of social organization: gender, peer group, health or disability, occupation, social class, age, ethnic group and sexuality.

As a matter of fact, people are now living in post-feminism era where contemporary popular culture context influences women's lives greatly. This post-feminism brings new changes in women's existence in the society where conventional ideas of feminism and femininity revolutionized. With its 'post' prefix, the term post-feminism implies the phase after feminism where battles for equality have been won and women are now reaping the benefits of a new gender regime (McRobbie, 2004: 255). This phenomenon is signed by the emergence of changing from sexual objectification to sexual subjectification, empowering modern ladies, and high consumption of popular culture products among womanhood in some aspects of lives. These phenomena are all reflected in the female characters in *Gossip Girl* Season 1 TV series, especially the leading roles, Blair Waldorf and Serena van der Woodsen.

In the whole part of this series, the aspect of post-feminism is mainly portrayed through the social surroundings and lifestyle of the main female characters which have good social standing, supportive social atmosphere, equal right in achieving dreams and career, wealthy life, and enjoyment of sexual

relationship. Those are all influenced by the spreading of popular culture. That is why the term post-feminism implies the phase after feminism where battles for equality have been won and women are now reaping the benefits of a new gender regime (McRobbie, 2004: 255).

Gossip Girl mainly focuses on the lives and gossip of the teenage girls in Upper East Side society in Manhattan. The title “Gossip Girl” here contextually connotes the part of contemporary woman culture. A feminist definition of gossip presents it as “a way of talking between women, intimate in style, personal and domestic in scope and setting, a female cultural event which springs from and perpetuates the restrictions of the female role, but also gives the comfort of validation” (Jones in Adams 2009: 35). With the spread of advanced communication technology and media, the existence of gossip culture in woman culture become more prevalent as it becomes more accessible. All the young women in *Gossip Girl* use their sophisticated gadgets such as their smartphones to acquire and spread the gossip. Moreover, *Gossip Girl* constructs female characters and the society under influence of contemporary popular culture: fashion, technology, and contemporary lifestyle: gossip, party, etc.

From the theories above, the researcher concludes that this study has the gender as the society, especially women that have a big role in the movie as presented by the female characters.

7. *Gossip Girl Season 1*

This section consists of some descriptions about *Gossip Girl Season 1* which are related and support the research. They are the production of *Gossip Girl Season 1* and summary of *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

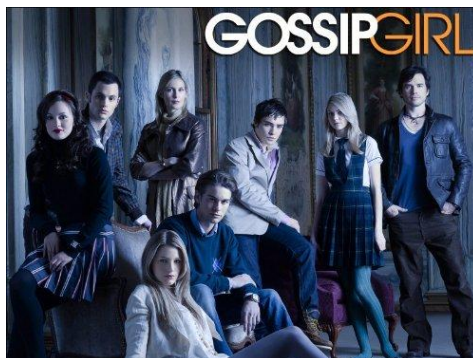


Figure 1. DVD Cover of *Gossip Girl Season 1*

a. The Production of *Gossip Girl Season 1*

Gossip Girl Season 1 is one of the television series programs which was developed by Josh Schwartz and Stephenie Savage based on the book series of the same title written by Cecily von Ziegesar. This television series got numerous nominations such as Artios Awards 2008 in Outstanding Achievement in Casting Television Pilot Drama category, ASTRA (Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association) Awards 2008 in Favourite International Program category, and People's Choice Award 2008 in Favourite New TV Drama category. It also won 18 Teen Choice Awards in many categories.

As a play, *Gossip Girl* consists of dialogues among its characters. Just like daily conversation, the speakers tell about gossip among female characters. That is why the researcher uses *Gossip Girl season 1* as the object of the research that is appropriate to be analyzed with a sociolinguistic approach. Those female

characters are Kelly Rutherford as Lillian van der Woodsen, Blake Lively as Serena van der Woodsen, Taylor Momsen as Jenny Humphrey, Nan Zhang as Kati Farkas, Leighton Meester as Blair Waldorf, Nicole Fiscella as Isabel Coates, Zuzanna Szadkowski as Dorota Kishlovsky, Margaret Colin as Eleanor Waldorf, and Michelle Hurd as Laurel.

Gossip Girl consists of six seasons, and each season contains more or less than 20 episodes. It aired on The CW for six seasons from September 19, 2007 to December 17, 2012. Considering the number of episodes in this television series, it is impossible to analyze all of them. This study, therefore, is limited only to season 1, when the main character, Serena Van Der Woodsen, is back from boarding school in the outside of her hometown; Upper East Side, Manhattan. From this season, which contains 18 episodes, the researcher only took four episodes to be analyzed. The episodes are “Pilot”, “The Wild Brunch”, “Poison Ivy”, and “Bad News Blair”.

b. Summary of *Gossip Girl* Season 1

This best-selling of young-adult TV Series, *Gossip Girl* is a one-hour drama based on the lives of privileged Manhattan prep school teens. The students first learn that Serena van der Woodsen, once the Upper East Side's most notorious party girl is back. The way they learn all the important news in their lives is from the blog of the all-knowing albeit ultra-secretive named ‘Gossip Girl’. No one knows Gossip Girl's identity, but everyone in this exclusive and complicated vicious circle relies on her website and text messages for the latest scoop. Even Serena's closest friend, Blair Waldorf, is surprised to find that Serena

has suddenly ended her self-imposed exile to boarding school and returned to Manhattan. Keeping track of the shifting friendships, jealousies and turmoil in this wealthy and complex world isn't easy, but it's what *Gossip Girl* does best.

This research analyzes four of 18 episodes from *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The first episode is entitled "Pilot". This episode tells about the comeback of Serena van der Woodsen from her boarding school to Manhattan city. It makes the other main character, Blair Waldorf, be in a confusing situation because Serena is back after leaving her for a long time. As her best friend, Serena is the most trusted friend that she had. However, she has been gone without any explanation. Serena is looking for many ways to build their friendship once again, but the truth that Blair's boyfriend, Nate, likes Serena more than Blair makes her efforts failed.

The second episode is "The Wild Brunch". After having no way to resolve the problem between Serena and Blair in the first episode, a man named Dan Humphrey comes to Serena's life. Although this man lives in Brooklyn who does not have popularity and wealth as Serena has, they like each other and are involved in a relationship. Dan's sister, Jenny Humphrey, also gets along with Serena in their school. Meanwhile, Blair has a brunch in the Palace Hotel which is owned by Chuck Bass' family. Just by a coincidence, there are Serena, Dan, and Nate in this brunch. A wild brunch happens because they debate about Serena's and Nate's feelings. They cannot overcome the debate, so Serena and Dan have a difficult situation.

"Poison Ivy" is the third episode of *Gossip Girl Season 1*. When Serena has many troubles, her mother will always be there for her. Lily van der Woodsen,

as a wise mother, suggests her to concentrate in getting into college because it is already the time when successful parents expect nothing than the Ivy's. The other main characters also prepare for this event. When the Ivy's day comes, a big reversal happens. Blair announces unconfirmed news that Serena has been recovered from drug addiction. Then, Blair knows the truth that Serena is not a drug addict from Erik, Serena's brother. A big regret comes to Blair's mind. However, this reversal is able to make up Serena and Blair friendship as they can talk heart to heart in the end of this episode.

The last episode is "Bad News Blair". The story comes to a lot of bad news for Blair because her mother gives Serena a job as a model for Waldorf's collection. At first, Blair is so upset about this decision, but Serena convinces her that it is the trick of Blair's mother. Serena just gets make-up and dress-up done. Then, she takes many poses in front of cameras while waiting for Blair. Fortunately, their friendship is undamaged as well as the relationship between Serena and Dan.

With a lot of gossip in this movie, the researcher chooses *Gossip Girl Season 1* as the object of this research. The characters of this movie are mostly women, so there are many women utterances that will help the researcher find the result of the research easier. Moreover, this movie also shows how gossip occurs nowadays in reflecting American society.

B. Previous Research Findings

The researcher realizes that there have been many studies which investigate the phenomena of gossip in linguistics field recently. In fact there are

many previous researches, especially in the form of journals or theses on this topic. However, it does not mean that they are the same. This is because each research has its own distinctive focus and methodology.

One of the previous researches is “A Sociolinguistic Study on Speech Features of Female Students of Petra Christian University while Gossiping in Campus” by Dewi Rosita, a Bachelor Degree student of Petra Christian University in 2001. This research has an objective to investigate the relationship between the gossip talked about with the speech features produced. The researcher used Lakoff’s theory (1975) about speech features of gossip found in women’s utterances. In this study, the researcher noted and recorded the conversations among the female students of Petra Christian University from any subjects for four months until she got ten conversations. The findings shows that there are indeed certain characteristics of women’s speech features as seen through their gossip. The speech features found in this research are mainly ‘lexical hedges or fillers’ and ‘intensifiers’. It is also discovered that the topics of gossip have a big influence on speech features that occur. The participants use certain speech features based on the topics of gossip that they apply.

Then, another research related to gossip is conducted by Sara Ahmed, a Bachelor Degree student of The University of Nottingham in 2011 with the title “Analyzing Women’s Talk and Gossip between Two Female Friends”. This research is published in the form of an article. Her findings are that features of what Coates deems ‘women’s talk’ such as hedges, minimal responses and collaborative talk can be found in the data. This is not solely, nor particularly

primarily, due to the fact they are female. It is more insightful to view the linguistic features found in the data as a result of equality in power between the participants. It is, in essence, a group of other variables such as setting, social status and identity that has resulted in this equality of power and the linguistic features discussed serve to reflect and nurture this equality as, ultimately, it is what constitutes the friendship.

Meanwhile, this research is not the same as those two previous research. This research focuses on analyzing gossip among female characters in a TV Series. Specifically, it identifies the types, speech features and functions of gossip.

C. The Conceptual Framework

The discussion on gossip phenomena is undeniably an important topic in linguistics area since it involves certain processes and its occurrence is influenced by certain social and linguistic structure. To be more specific, the discussion on those things is always under sociolinguistic study since this study is also about language and society.

Language is concerned with the exchange of information; that, after all, is what it (or, at least, grammar) is mainly designed to do. However, linguists and those in most other disciplines interested in language have traditionally assumed that the information to be exchanged is factual knowledge about the world (Dunbar, 2004: 104). Meanwhile, in a society where people are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes, they use language to reveal or conceal their personal identity, character, and background. It means that language and society are two points that are related to each other.

Through analyzing language and society aspects, researchers can identify such a unique set of items or patterns for each group in question or a language variety. It might be possible to say that there are such language varieties as Standard English, lower-class New York City speech, and so on. One important task, then, in sociolinguistics is to determine if such unique sets of items or patterns do exist.

According to Elgin (1993: 21), language variety consists of idiolects, dialects, registers, and genderlects. However, this research is more focused on genderlects especially in women's language. Fishman (in Mesthrie, 2003: 231) found that women gave more conversational support than men. They express interest in their partner's conversational topic, and made more frequent use of minimal responses such as **mmh**, **yeah**, and **right**, indicating their involvement. She also saw women's conversational supportiveness as an expected characteristic of being female: women are expected to keep conversation going.

In fact, women usually talk about someone who is not present during the conversation. To function efficiently in a complex social environment, they require information about those around them. However, social inter-connections are complex, and it is impossible to be present at many primary exchanges to absorb this kind of information directly. Thus, women are eager to pick it up through an intermediary, whether or not they have the luxury and patience to confirm it later either directly or indirectly. This phenomenon, of course, is called gossip.

The phenomena of gossip as stated before are reflected by female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*, a television series. Female characters of *Gossip Girl Season 1* talked about a lot of gossip among them. Those female characters are Lillian van der Woodsen, Serena van der Woodsen, Jenny Humphrey, Kati Farkas, Blair Waldorf, Isabel Coates, Dorota Kishlovsky, Eleanor Waldorf, and Laurel.

The researcher focuses on three problems which appear in the *Gossip Girl*. The first problem deals with types of gossip that are used by female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. To identify this problem, the researcher uses Deborah Jones's theory (in Talbot, 2010: 75) that classifies the types of gossip into four categories: house talk, scandal, bitching, and chatting.

The second problem deals with speech features of gossip. *Gossip Girl Season 1* has many speech features that are used in doing gossip among female characters. The researcher uses Lakoff's theory (in Cameron, 1990: 248) that classifies speech features of gossip into five categories: meaningless particles, neutral words, tag questions, requisite information, and requests.

The third problem deals with functions of gossip in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. Not only do women gossip, but the act of gossiping itself also has many functions. Those functions are to provide information, to give entertainment, to enhance friendship, to influence others, and to make social comparison. The diagram of the conceptual framework can be seen in the following analytical construct.

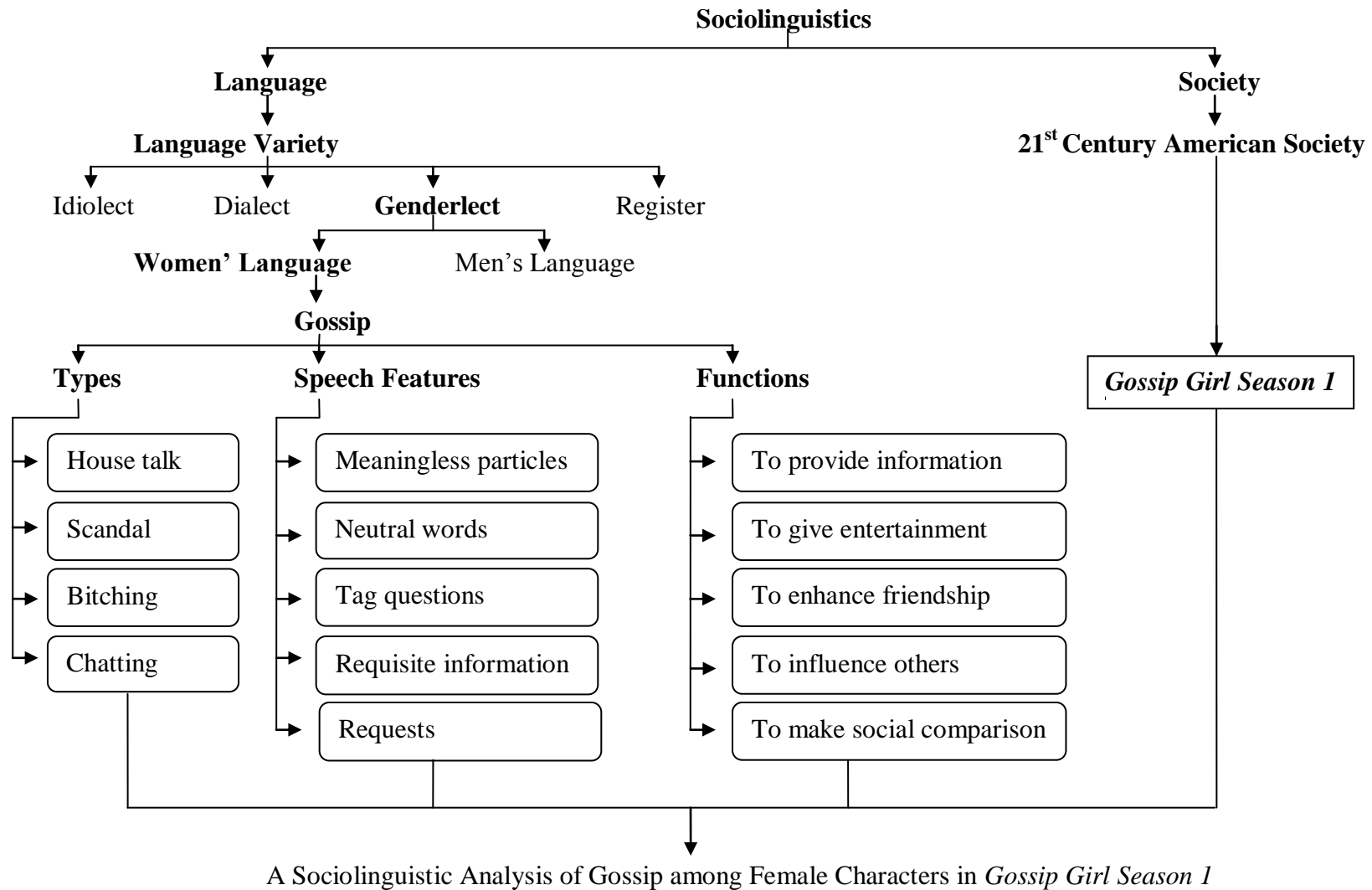


Figure 2. The Analytical Construct

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the researcher focuses on the research method. The researcher divides this chapter into four parts of discussion: the type of the research, describing the approach of conducting this study; data preparation, including the object of the research, data and source of data, research instruments, and techniques of data collection; method of data analysis, showing how the data are analyzed; and data trustworthiness, describing how the validity of the data findings is checked.

A. The Type of the Research

This research used descriptive qualitative research since it emphasizes on describing the phenomenon of the use of language in its context by interpreting the data. This approach provided a richer and more in depth understanding of the population under study or research participants. Moreover, a qualitative perspective assumed that knowledge is constructed through communication and social interaction. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 166) say that a qualitative research perspective assumes that people cannot analyze and understand an entity by analysis of its parts; rather, they must examine the larger context in which people and knowledge function.

The purpose of qualitative research is more descriptive and predictive. A deeper understanding of researcher's viewpoint is the goal of this research. Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2006: 3) state that as qualitative research, the

research produces the data description in the form of written or spoken words from observable people or behavior. Based on the statement above, the data are in the form of words and illustration, not in the form of number (Moleong, 2006: 6). However, quantitative method was also employed in this research. It was used to help the researcher interpret the data and strengthen the description of the findings.

Using descriptive-qualitative method, this research attempted to reveal the types, speech features and functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

B. The Data Preparation

The data preparation consists of three parts. The first is explaining the object of the research, data and source of data. The second is deciding the research instrument. The third is explaining the techniques of data collection.

1. Objects of the Research, Data and Source of Data

The object of this research was the dialogues uttered by the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* containing and reflecting the phenomena of gossip. The data were in the form of linguistic features such as utterances in the form of words, phrases, and sentences by female characters in this TV Series, mostly by Serena van der Woodsen, Blair Waldorf, Jenny Humphrey, Lily van der Woodsen, Eleanor Waldorf, Laurel, Kati Farkas, Dorota Kishlovsky, and Isabel Coates.

The source of the data was *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The data were taken from the script of the TV Series. There were four from eighteen episodes of

Gossip Girl Season 1 to get the intensive and accurate results. Those episodes are Episode 1 “Pilot”, Episode 2 “Wild Brunch”, Episode 3 “Poison Ivy”, and Episode 4 “Bad News Blair”.

2. Research Instruments

According to Moleong (2006: 168), in qualitative research, the researcher herself acts as the major instrument. The researcher designed this study. As the main instrument of this study, the researcher had the role of planning, collecting, analyzing, and reporting the research findings of types, speech features, and functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. This is in line with Mathie’s theory (2005: 28) which proposes that all research methods associated with qualitative research are heavily dependent on the researcher as the interviewer, observer, facilitator, communicator, and interpreter of data. In other words, all data are filtered by the researcher. In this research, the researcher was the one who collected and processed the data, from the raw to the final data ones.

Meanwhile, this study also used additional instruments, such as the film scripts, and data sheet. The data sheet was used as a guide of processing, identification and analysis. The form of data sheet can be seen as follows.

Table 1. The Data Sheet of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl* Season 1

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
1.	EP1/S02/P03	<p>[Isabel and Katy are reading their text messages]</p> <p>Katy My god, you'll never believe what's on 'Gossip Girl'.</p> <p>Isabel Someone saw Serena get off a train at Grand Central.</p>		√			√					√					<p>The situation was that Katy and Isabel were together in their school. While they were waiting for the next class, Katy showed text messages from 'Gossip Girl' that contained gossip about Serena who got off from a train at Grand Central. This gossip belongs to scandal type and contains meaningless particle of my god. The gossip function is to provide information because Katy gives information to Isabel about Serena.</p>

Note:

No. : Number of Datum

Code: EP1/S02/P03 : Episode 1/Number of Scene /Page Number of Script

Characters:

Types of Gossip:

Speech Features of Gossip:

Functions of Gossip:

Lily : Lillian van der Woodsen

HT : House Talk

MP : Meaningless particles

IN : To provide information

Serena : Serena van der Woodsen

SD : Scandal

NW : Neutral words

EN : To give entertainment

Jenny : Jenny Humphrey

BI : Bitching

TQ : Tag questions

FR : To enhance friendship

Katy : Kati Farkas

CH : Chatting

RI : Requisite information

IF : To influence others

Blair : Blair Waldorf

RE : Request

SC : To make social comparison

Isabel : Isabel Coates

Dorota : Dorota Kishlovsky

Eleanor: Eleanor Waldorf

Laurel : Laurel

3. Techniques of Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher applied *simak* and *catat* (read and write) technique or attentive observation (Sudaryanto, 1993: 133-135). This technique is aimed at recording relevant data which are suitable with the research questions in the research objectives. These techniques are appropriate to be applied since the data of the research were in the form of utterances. Sudaryanto (1993: 133) states that *simak* method is done by paying careful attention to the use of language. Thus, when observing gossip, the researcher listened to all utterances spoken by the characters. In applying this technique, the researcher observed a TV Series entitled *Gossip Girl season 1* by focusing on the employment of gossip's types, speech features, and functions. In collecting data, the researcher did the following steps:

- 1) watching the TV Series,
- 2) retrieving the script from <http://gossip-girl.hypnoweb.net/>,
- 3) checking the suitability between the TV Series and the script to make it easier to analyze,
- 4) watching and re-watching the TV Series to find the relevant data,
- 5) identifying the scenes in the TV Series with a support of the script which are in accordance with the objectives of this study, and
- 6) recording the data which are in accordance with the objectives of this study into the data sheet.

C. Methods of Data Analysis

Wimmer and Dominick (2010: 119) state that data analysis in qualitative studies is done early in the collection process and continues throughout the project. This means that in this type of research when the researchers conduct the data collection, they actually have started conducting the data analysis as well. In this research, the researcher employed the content analysis of spoken words in the TV Series and written text of the TV Series script to find the types, speech features, and functions of gossip created by the female characters. According to Krippendorff (in Stemler, 2001: 3), content analysis is a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from data to their context. The following presents the steps of the data analysis of this study.

1. The researcher identified the errors in the data collection to gain appropriate data.
2. The researcher classified gossip by the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* TV Series.
3. The researcher analyzed the types, speech features and functions of gossip which appear through the gossip employed by the female characters.
4. The researcher drew conclusions for the research questions.

D. Trustworthiness of the Data

Establishing trustworthiness ensures the quality of the findings. Many different strategies are applied in qualitative research to convince the readers about the validity of the research. Validity, on the other hand, is one of the strengths of qualitative research, and it is based on determining whether the

findings are accurate from the standpoint of the researcher, the participant, or the readers of an account (Creswell, 2009: 191).

One common technique to improve the quality of trustworthiness is triangulation. According to Yin (in Creswell, 2009: 190), there are four main types of triangulation: by source – data are collected from different sources; by methods – different data collection strategies are used such as individual interviews and participant observation; by researcher – which involves the use of more than one researcher to analyze the data, develop and test the identification; and by theories – multiple theories and perspective are considered during data analysis and interpretation. The researcher applied the triangulation technique by sources and by other researchers in this research.

To gain the credibility, the researcher analyzed the data in a deep observation. The researcher was convinced that the data collected were suitable with the objectives of this study by applying triangulation technique. The researcher used sources and researchers technique in this study. The sources such as books, papers, articles, and some others related to the gossip were used in this study. The researcher also triangulated the data by asking the supervisors, prominent lecturers who are keen in sociolinguistics field, and also some colleagues of English language and literature majoring in linguistics as peer reviewers to confirm the data collected.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is divided into two parts. They are findings of the research and discussion of data analysis. The findings present and describe the frequency of occurrences as well as percentages of types, speech features and functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. Then, the discussion shows further explanation and description according to the findings. Some examples from the data are presented to encourage the description. Some important parts in the examples are highlighted.

A. Findings

This section consists of three parts. The first part is related to the types of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The second is about the speech features of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. Then, the third is about the functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The findings are presented in tables.

1. Types of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

There are four types of gossip. They are House Talk (HT), Scandal (SC), Bitching (BI) and Chatting (CH). The findings of the types of gossip among the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Types of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

No.	Types of Gossip	Frequency	Percentage
1.	House Talk (HT)	8	17.77
2.	Scandal (SC)	3	6.67
3.	Bitching (BI)	9	20
4.	Chatting (CH)	25	55.56
Total		45	100

Table 2 clearly shows that, although the frequency of the occurrences is never the same from one to another, the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* employ all types of gossip. The most appearing phenomenon is chatting. It occurs 25 times out of the total 45 data. In other words, from the total 100%, its percentage is 55.56%. It is more than half of the data. Following chatting, as the second most often appearing phenomenon, there is bitching. Its number of occurrences is quite different from the previous ranks. It only appears nine times with the percentage of 20% of the total 100%. After that, house talk ranks the third. It occurs eight times out of 45 data, or the same as 17.77% of the total 100%. Finally, the last type of gossip, which is scandal, occurs three times. It gets 6.67% from the total 45 data. The number of findings shows how those types of gossip are used by female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The highest rank of types of gossip shows that chatting is most often uttered by women. In contrast, the lowest rank type shows that women in this TV Series rarely use such type of gossip in their utterances. This suggests that the female characters in this TV Series mostly use chatting in delivering gossip as they have mutual relationship

among them. They rarely use scandal because they do not like to judge other women's behaviour.

2. Speech Features of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

There are five speech features of gossip. They are Meaningless Particles (MP), Neutral Words (NW), Tag Questions (TQ), Requisite Information (RI), and Request (RE). However, the female characters in the *Gossip Girl Season 1* do not employ all speech features of gossip. Furthermore, the findings of the speech features of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Speech Features of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

No.	Speech Features of Gossip	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Meaningless Particles (MP)	45	35.43
2.	Neutral Words (NW)	69	54.33
3.	Tag Questions (TQ)	9	7.09
4.	Requisite Information (RI)	0	0
5.	Requests (RE)	4	3.15
Total		127	100

From all the analyzed utterances, 127 speech features were found. The female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* do not employ all speech features of gossip. The highest occurrence rate goes to the neutral words with the frequency of 69 or percentage of 54.33%. It is more than a half from the analyzed data. Then, meaningless particles with 45 occurrences come second. This means that its

percentage is 35.43%. In contrast, tag questions are the third with nine times occurrences or percentage of 7.09%. Following tag questions, requests come the fourth. It occurs four times or 3.15%. Finally, the last one goes to requisite information with the zero occurrences. It means that the highest rank is neutral words and the lowest one is requisite information. Like what happens in the types of gossip, the highest and the lowest ranks of speech features show how often the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* use those five speech features of gossip. It can be a means that they mostly use neutral words as they have many important things that they want to talk about with other women. Meanwhile, they do not use requisite information because they use tag questions when they feel hesitant.

3. Functions of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

There are five functions of gossip. They are to provide information (IN), to give entertainment (EN), to enhance friendship (FR), to influence others (IF), and to make social comparison (SC). The findings of the functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Functions of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

No.	Functions of Gossip	Frequency	Percentage
1.	To provide information (IN)	20	44.44
2.	To give entertainment (EN)	4	8.89
3.	To enhance friendship (FR)	6	13.33
4.	To influence others (IF)	13	28.90
5.	To make social comparison (SC)	2	4.44
Total		45	100

In terms of functions, all functions of gossip are found among the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. The most appearing one is to provide information. It occurs 20 times out of the total 45 data or the percentage is 44.44%. It is almost a half from the analyzed data. After that, to influence others ranks the second. It occurs 13 times, or the same as 28.90% of the total 100%. Following to influence others, as the third most often appearing phenomenon, there is to enhance friendship that occurs six times with the percentage of 13.33%. After that, to give entertainment comes the fourth. It appears four times out of 45 data and its percentage is 8.89%. Lastly, it is to make social comparison with only twice occurrences or its percentage is 4.44%. To conclude, the highest occurrence rate is to provide information and the lowest one is to make social comparison. It means the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* have many information that they want to deliver to other women and rarely do they employ the lowest one, to make social comparison. This suggests that the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* are confidence with their personality and identity.

B. Discussion

This section is different from the previous section of this chapter which only answers the research question by presenting tables and giving brief descriptions. In this section, deeper explanations of each point of the findings are performed. Moreover, the examples for each phenomenon are also described.

1. Types of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

There are four types of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. They are house talk, scandal, bitching and chatting. Below are the detailed explanation of each category.

a. House Talk

House talk ranks the third of the types of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. From all 45 data, only 8 of them which are categorized as house talk. In other words, it is 17.77% from all 100%. This type of gossip occurs when the exchange of information and resources is connected with the female role as occupation. Women use house talk in order to show that they need support and recognition.

The following is the example of house talk.

(4: 01) Serena	Do you see the Yale rep?
Lily	I thought you wanted to go to Brown and Blair wanted to go to Yale?
	[They start walking into the party again]
Serena	Yeah, I know.

(No. 30/EP3/S26/P81)

Datum (4: 01) shows that the type of gossip that occurs is house talk. With her mother, Serena is also thinking about her role as a student who will graduate

from her school soon and as Blair's bestfriend. When Serena and her family visited the Ivy Week held in her school, she came to find the representative of her favourite university, Brown University. It was her dream to enter the university so that she was very enthusiastic in this event. However, she also looked for Yale representative that was Blair's favorite university. The reason was that she just wanted to know about her bestfriend's favorite university. That was why she asked her mother where the representative was.

This type of gossip shows that Serena cares about her occupation or position not only as a student but also as a friend. Although she is in a condition where she has a misunderstanding with Blair, she feels curious to know about her friend's favourite university representative.

One more example of house talk is presented as follows.

(4: 02) Blair	Did we have plans?
Eleanor	Darling, it is impolite to interrupt. I was just telling Serena that Bendel's is interested in carrying my line.
Blair	Really? Oh, that's fantastic! Why didn't you say something?
Eleanor	I came back from Paris early to put together my look book, and if they like what they see, it could be the beginning of an entire lifestyle collection.

(No. 33/EP4/S02/P96)

Datum (4: 02) is an example of house talk. Eleanor and Blair are pointing to business conversation. In *Gossip Girl Season 1*, Eleanor was Blair's mother who was back from Paris. However, Eleanor was not only a mother for her, but also she was a businesswoman who had a big influence in the fashion world.

The example of house talk in datum (4: 02) happens when Blair found her mother that morning talking with Serena. She was a little upset because she does not have not any information that her mother would be at home that day. Then,

she took her mother to the dining room. She first asked about the plans that they would take if her mother was back. Her mother finally explained that Bendel's brand was interested in Blair's mother's line. It could mean that her mother would take the beginning of an entire collection.

(4: 03) Laurel **This one missed her cue at the Chloe' Show, because she was throwing up a pear. She was in vera's "vogue" spread.**
 Eleanor **I don't use vera's models. None of these are right..**

(No. 37/EP4/S06/P99)

Eleanor Waldorf was a business woman who were working at a fashion business. Meanwhile, Laurel was Eleanor's friend and a partner in Eleanor fashion company. Her business had a big influence in many countries such as USA and Paris. However, they wanted to find a new face for modeling the upcoming photo shoots.

The type of gossip in datum (4: 03) is house talk. Talking about how to be an interesting photo shoot is the goal of their jobs. The situation was that Laurel gave many suggestions to Eleanor about finding a new face as a friend and a business partner in this TV series. Eleanor who did not like with Vera's models declined Laurel's suggestion. Although the brand that was using the models was very wellknown, Eleanor felt that none of the models was right. Then, Laurel insisted that the models should be someone who already appeared in the fashion book.

Another example of house talk is presented as follows.

(4: 04) Eleanor	If this person is supposed to represent Waldorf designs, you have to find me someone... worthy of the clothes.
Laurel	Yeah.
Eleanor	Someone like me. Mm. Someone like ... my daughter.

(No. 39/EP4/S06/P99)

Datum (4: 04) shows that house talk happens when Eleanor and Laurel are talking about the model for the upcoming project. Laurel was a friend of Eleanor and also a partner of fashion business. Eleanor wanted someone who was worthy of the clothes because it needed to represent Waldorf designs. Then, she remembered that someone who was like her was absolutely her only daughter, Blair Waldorf. Laurel, from her point of view as a designer, also accepted if Blair's daughter was able to represent the Waldorf lifestyle. The reason was that there would be no other model that was better to represent it. Thus, house talk appears as they are talking about a new face for their business. Although they have friendship, they also talk about business or occupation.

b. Scandal

As what is clearly shown in Table 2, scandal ranks fourth or the last. From all the 45 data, it only appears three times. This type of gossip is less often used by the female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. Scandal is a verbal policing or the judging of other women's behavior. It also shows women's interest in each other's lives. The three data which contain scandal are described one by one.

(4: 05) [Isabel and Katy are reading their text messages]

Katy My god, **you'll never believe what's on 'Gossip Girl'.**
 Isabel **Someone saw Serena get off a train at Grand Central.**

(No. 1/EP1/S02/P03)

The type of gossip in datum (4: 05) is scandal. The situation began as Katy and Isabel were together in their school. While they were waiting for the next class, Katy showed the text messages from 'Gossip Girl' that contained gossip about Serena who got off from a train at Grand Central. 'Gossip Girl' was a SNS (Social Networking Service) that was famous in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. Providing updates of wellknown people in USA, the SNS delivered the news that Serena was back to USA. They showed an interest of Serena. Both of them knew who Serena was as they attended the same junior high school.

(4: 06) Blair Cedric? Your brother's name?
 Jenny No, that was his 'Cabbage Patch Kid'. **My brother's name is Dan.** Actually, you might know him. He, uhm, **he went out with Serena last night.**
 Blair That was your brother? So **does that mean you're friends with Serena now?**
 Jenny I mean, I don't have a problem with her but if someone did have a problem with her I wouldn't have a problem with that either.

(No. 19/EP2/S23/P47-P48)

Datum (4: 06) is an example of scandal. This type of gossip happens when Blair and Jenny are talking about Serena. When Jenny was playing with Blair's doll, she called the doll with Cedric. Blair misunderstood about the name Cedric. That name belonged to her brother's doll. Then, Blair asked the name of Jenny's brother. However, Blair found out that Dan Humphrey was Jenny's brother who

was close to Serena. In episode 2 of *Gossip Girl Season 1*, Blair had a problem and did not meet often with Serena. Blair did not realize that a man who went with Serena last night was Jenny's brother. Knowing the fact that Dan was Jenny's brother made Blair a little disturbed. Although the situation was bad enough for her, Jenny told that even though Blair and Serena had a problem, she did not have problem with that situation. Thus, she still acted cool with Blair.

(4: 07) [Int Constance/St Jude's - Blair turn to Kati and Isabel]

Blair **Serena's really not here, isn't she?**

Kati That's what I said.

Isabel When you weren't supposed to be talking!

(No. 23/EP3/S09/P69)

Scandal as a type of gossip occurs in datum (4: 07). It shows a type of gossip called scandal as Blair is interested in the appearance of Serena, her friend. When Blair, Kati, and Isabel were sitting together in the school assembly in that morning, Blair asked to her friends about Serena as she did not see Serena in the assembly. Serena usually did not late to come to school. However, it was different for that day.

c. **Bitching**

Bitching ranks the second before house talk. Among all 45 data, nine are bitching. In other words, it is 20% from all 100%. This type of gossip shows complaints to other women (only). It is the overt expression of women's anger at their restricted role and inferior status. Moreover, women who are using this type of gossip just want to be understood. In this TV series, the female characters

employ scandal for showing complaints and needs to be understood. It is presented in the following example.

(4: 08) [Isabel and Katy both get new text messages]

Isabel and Katy Serena's here, isn't she?

Blair **What is she doing here? She wasn't invited.**

(No. 10/EP1/S49/P25)

The type of gossip in datum (4: 08) is called bitching. Isabel, Katy and Blair were talking about Serena who came to the Blair's party. They felt annoyed as they saw the messages from 'Gossip Girl', a SNS media, told the appearance of Serena inside Blair's party. Blair was sure that Serena was not invited. However, Blair did not know that Jenny, one of Blair's friends, gave the invitation to Serena. In this situation, Blair and her friends did not have a good relationship with Serena. They were still mad at Serena as she did not communicate with Blair when she went to a boarding school outside of Manhattan city. Moreover, Serena made the mistake of coming to Blair's party. Blair wanted to be understood by her friends, and so did her friend.

(4: 09) Blair **I don't want to see Serena at school and she better not show up at brunch today.**

Katy You're really mad at Serena.

Isabel I hope you never get that mad at us.

(No. 11/EP2/S06/P35)

The type of gossip called bitching occurs in datum (4: 09). The reason is that Blair, Katy and Isabel are talking about Serena. When Blair was very angry with Serena in this scene. Katy and Isabel heard Blair's complaint and realized this situation. Blair became mad at her because she knew that Serena cheated with

her boyfriend, Nate Archibald, before Serena left her bestfriend, Blair Waldorf. Moreover, Serena did not give any information to Blair about where Serena stayed outside Manhattan. Serena also did not text her any messages. It led to Blair's madness. Moreover, Blair did not want to see Serena at school and at brunch on that day.

(4: 10) [Int Waldorf Home - Blair is lying on a chaise lounge whilst Kati and Isabel sit and press cold compresses onto her leg]

Katy **I can't believe Serena did this.**

Isabel **Yeah, such a cheap shot.**

[Blair's phone starts ringing, Blair looks at it and Kati and Isabel turn to face her. Blair answers the phone]

Blair Finally.

(No. 28/EP3/S17/P74)

Datum (4: 10) is also an example of bitching. It happens when Blair, Katy and Isabel are talking about Serena. After a little fight in doing hockey at school, Katy, Isabel and Blair arrived in Blair's home. Katy and Isabel started to heal the pain on Blair's leg because of quarrelling with Serena. Then, they were talking about what Serena did to Blair. Although Blair was the first one who started the fight, Katy and Isabel still took side of Blair position. While Blair was waiting for messages from her friend, Chuck Bass, she was listening to the complaints of Katy and Isabel. Her friends were mad with Serena.

(4: 11) Blair That was disgusting. **The D.O.H. should shut them down.**

Serena The bathroom, isn't it?

Blair No, the people ... it's called Nolita, not "no shower".

(No. 36/EP4/S04/P98)

Datum (4: 11) shows that the bitching occurs because Blair complains to Serena about the people in Nolita or North of Little Italy. Nolita was a neighbourhood in the borough of Manhattan in New York City. She said that the D.O.H. (Department of Health) should shut them down. The reason why she complained to Serena was that the people was so disgusting. Those people seemed that they did not take shower. At first, Serena thought that Blair complained about the bathroom as Blair said something that was disgusting. Serena knew that Blair was coming from the stores in Nolita. However, Serena did not expect that Blair was talking about the people in Nolita.

d. Chatting

Chatting appears the most often compared to the other types of gossip. Among the 45 data, it appears 25 times. Its percentages takes 55.56% of 100%. This finding is actually not surprising remembering this type of gossip is commonly used by people especially women in delivering gossip. It is known as the most intimate type of gossip, a mutual self-disclosure. It also means that chatting is about nurturing others. It is about taking care of, protecting and helping each others. In *Gossip Girl Season 1*, the female characters usually use chatting to deliver their feelings to each other. An example of chatting is in the following datum.

(4: 12) [Serena walks up to her mother, Lily, who is talking to a friend]

Serena Mom... mom! Hey.

Lily Oh, Serena, darling.

[They hug each other]

Serena So, **where is he? What? They haven't let him out, do they?**

Lily **I thought you might want to see some of your friends.**

Serena Thanks.

(No. 2/EP1/S05/P04)

The type of gossip in datum (4: 12) is chatting. Serena asked to her mother, Lily about her brother, Eric, who was not present in a party that was held by Blair, Serena's friend. It was the first thing that she was done when she arrived in Manhattan. Then, she asked her mother where Eric, her brother, was. Eric did not appear anywhere in the party. Moreover, she was hesitant whether her brother was already out or not from Ostroff Center. However, her mother did not want to talk about Eric in the party. Lily thought that Serena came to that party to meet her friends. Being a little bit upset, Serena left the party after she said thanks to her mother. However, the truth was that her mother wanted to talk about Eric in home, not in the party, because it could lead to anger for Serena as Eric was in the Ostroff Center. Lily cared about their children, and Serena also cared about her family.

(4: 13) Serena **Let me guess: You told everyone Eric is just visiting grandpa in Rhode Island.**

Lily Your aunt Carol in Miami.

Serena So, **you're actually hiding him.** He tries to take his own life and you're worried it will cost you 'Mom Of The Year'?

Lily **Serena, you've been gone. Doing who knows what with god knows who...**

Serena I told you, boarding school was not like that.

(No. 4/EP1/S08/P05-P06)

Serena and her mother are using a type of gossip called chatting as they talk about Eric, Serena's brother. In *Gossip Girl Season 1*, Serena was Lily's daughter. She asked about the condition of Eric recently. She was worried about hiding him from society. Moreover, she found out that her mother lied to other people that Eric was just visiting grandfather in Rhode Island. Her mother confessed that Lily lied about where Eric was. However, Lily lied that Eric was in Miami with his aunt. The purpose of those lies was to protect the name of Eric. If people knew that Eric was in the Ostroff Center, they would talk many bad things about him. It was the same as sending Serena to boarding school so that Serena did not meet Eric for along time. It was in order to give Eric the times for healing his hurt. This type of gossip shows that both of them care for Eric and each other.

(4: 14) Serena	Mom, I really don't think it's a good idea for me to go to that brunch.
Lily	You promised.
Serena	Yeah, but that was before... before I knew Dan was hungry too. I can't let the boy starve.
Lily	He's not invited.
Serena	Yeah, that's why I'm going with him.

(No. 21/EP2/S24/P49)

Datum (4: 14) shows an example of chatting between Serena and Lily. They were talking about a brunch in Chuck's event. Serena did not agree to go alone to this brunch at first. However, she was going with Dan for a reason that Dan was hungry too. The reason that she did not want to go to the brunch was that she would probably meet Blair there. In the episode 2 of *Gossip Girl Season 1*, Serena and Blair had a problem because Blair found out that Serena cheated with

her boyfriend before she went to boarding house. Serena hoped that her mother would not find out about this situation so she just said that it was not a good idea to come to the event. Moreover, she did not want her mother to be worried about the friendship of her and Blair. Her mother was already thinking about Eric, Serena's brother, so she did not want to make another problem to be worried about.

(4: 15) Serena	Mom, I've had my mind on a lot of things. Since recent events, going away to college sounds pretty good.
Lily	How... how did you leave things with Dan?
Serena	I don't wanna talk about it.

(No. 26/EP3/S11/P70)

Datum (4: 15) is an example of chatting. Serena and her mother were talking about the plan to go to college. However, she did not want to talk about Dan, her boyfriend. Here, Serena just wanted to focus on her college. Moreover, she had a problem with Blair. It meant she did not feel comfortable to be in the same school with Blair. She hoped that she was able to leave that school as soon as possible. Thus, she started the conversation with her mother about college. Serena wanted supports from her mother. However, her mother was worried about the relationship of her daughter and Dan. To conclude, Serena's mother wanted her daughter to protect her relationship with Dan as long as she was thinking about college. Her mother did not want her daughter to feel hurt by leaving her boyfriend.

2. Speech Features of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

According to Lakoff's theory (1975) in Cameron (1990: 248-251), there are five speech features of gossip. However, there are only four speech features of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. They are meaningless particles, neutral words, tag questions and requests. Below is the detailed explanation of each category.

a. Meaningless Particles

Meaningless particles rank the second. This speech feature occurs 45 times. It is the form of lexical items that do not have meaning. The explanation and examples of this speech feature are described as follows.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| (4: 16) Serena
Blair | No, I know... I was just... boarding school... it's like...
I don't even know why you went to boarding school to begin with. Do you know how it felt, calling your house when you didn't show up at school and having your mom say: Serena didn't tell you that she moved to Connecticut?
(No. 6/EP1/S18/P12) |
|-------------------------|---|

The speech feature in datum (4: 16) is in Serena's line. The meaningless particles that are presented in bold type are **I know**, **I was just** and **it's like**. The female character, Serena, uses the meaningless particles to show that she is hesitant about explaining how a boarding school was like to Blair, her best friend. Blair wants to know the reason why Blair went to a boarding school and did not give any information to Blair when she was there.

- (4: 17) Serena Hey, mom.
 Lily Guess what I found for you... a dress for 'Kiss on the Lips'.
 I saw the invitation on the nightstand.
 Serena **Oh**, I'm not going to that.
 Lily What do you mean? Blair's throwing it.

(No. 8/EP1/S38/P19)

Another example of meaningless particles is presented above. It occurs in Serena's second line. The meaningless particle that is presented in bold type is **oh**. This speech feature does not have any meaning, but it can be as a pause filler. It happens when Serena's mother, Lily, talked about the invitation and the dress for 'Kiss on the Lips' party. Serena responds that she would not go to the party.

- (4: 18) Serena **Yeah, uhm**...the problem is I... by the time I got the
 invitation... I **uhm** actually already had plans.
 Lily Plans with whom?
 Serena My friend.

(No. 9/EP1/S38/P19)

The meaningless particles that is presented in bold type are **yeah** and **uhm** which appear in Serena's lines in datum (4: 18). When she talked with her mother, she actually got the invitation from Blair's party. However, she lied that she already had plans with her friend. Thus, showing the hesitation, she uses the meaningless particles to try explaining the reason why she did not go to the party.

- (4: 19) Jenny Hi.
 Blair What do you want?
 Jenny I realised that I still have your calligraphy pens... from the
 party invitations and thought you might need them for
 something.
 Blair That's the worst excuse I've ever heard. You wanna know
 what Chuck Bass is saying about you.
 Jenny No. Is he... saying things? Is anyone?

Blair	Mmh , no. Not yet anyway. Chuck likes to brag about his conquests not his victims. Come on, you can help me get ready for brunch.
Jenny	Ok, sure.

(No. 15/EP2/S20/P43-P44)

The meaningless particle in the datum occurs in Blair's line. This speech feature that is presented in bold type is **mmh**. It shows that Blair is hesitant to answer Jenny's question about the response from Chuck Bass who saw Jenny that night. Jenny came to Blair's house and used excuses to deliver the calligraphy pens.

b. Neutral Words

Neutral words rank first because it occurs 69 times. This speech feature is about words that are possibly used by women although those are usually spoken by men. It is used to convey something important. Those examples of neutral words are presented as follows.

(4: 20) Serena	So, how's your mom doing... with the divorce and everything?
Blair	Great . So my dad left her for another man. She's lost 15 pounds, got an eye-lift. It's been good for her.
Serena	I'm really sorry .
Blair	Yeah, I could tell since you didn't call or write the entire time it was happening.

(No. 5/EP1/S18/P12)

Datum (4: 20) shows that the neutral words occur three times in Blair's lines and once in Serena's line. In Blair's line, the first word is **great**, the second one is **good** and the last is **entire**. The neutral words are found in Blair's lines because she wants to express the important things about her father and mother

who were already divorced. The first word leads to the situation that her father was married to another man after the divorce which made a big impact to her life. The second word also shows an important thing. The word leads to the situation that her mother was lost 15 pounds and got an eye-lift because of the divorce too. The last word leads to the situation that Blair knew about how sorry Serena was when all of bad things happened in Blair's life.

Meanwhile, there is a neutral word of **sorry** in Serena's line which leads to the situation that Serena was very sorry about the bad things happened in her best friend's life.

(4: 21) Serena	Look, mom, I really don't think it's a good idea for me to go to that brunch.
Lily	You promised.
Serena	Yeah, but that was before... before I knew Dan was hungry too. I can't let the boy starve.
Lily	He's not invited.

(No. 21/EP2/S24/P49)

Datum (4: 21) shows that the neutral words that occur are **good** and **hungry**. Those are in Serena's lines as she is saying about her opinion of the idea for her to go to the brunch in Chuck Bass' event. When she did not want to go to that event, she made excuses that she would come to that event if Dan was with her. Moreover, the word of **hungry** leads Serena to a reason that Dan had to come with her to the brunch. Showing that her opinions are important, she uses the neutral word of **good** and **hungry**.

(4: 22) Lily It's Ivy Week, Serena.
[Lily hands Serena a lip gloss and Serena applies it in front of the mirror]
Serena I know... If I can get out of this hotel room, it's my **sole** ambition in life to impress the Brown rep.
Lily I'm so **thrilled** to hear that that's still your plan. I know it's something we've always talked about but honestly since you've been back I've wondered if your mind was even on college.

(No. 25/EP3/S11/P70)

Neutral words in datum (4: 22) show the important thing about Serena's line. Her ambition is shown by the neutral word of **sole**. Then, the neutral word of **thrilled** shows the feeling of her mother when she hears about her daughter's ambition. When Serena was preparing to go to school, Serena was telling her mother about her ambition. She tried to convince her mother that she had the ambition to go to Brown university.

(4: 23) [Blair now stops reading from the letter and puts it back inside the envelope. She looks up at Serena]
Serena Why didn't you send it? I could've-
Blair -You could've what!
Blair You knew Serena and you didn't even call.
Serena I didn't know what to say to you. I didn't know how to be your friend after what I did. I'm so **sorry**.
Blair Erik told me what happened; I guess your family's been going through a **hard** time too.
[Blair and Serena both smile at each other]

(No. 32/EP3/S42/P95)

Datum (4: 23) contains neutral word of **sorry** in Serena's line and **hard** in the last lines of Blair's. The neutral word of **sorry** in Serena's line shows her feeling towards Blair's problems. In *Gossip Girl Season 1*, Serena and Blair finally solved their problems and became friends again. Meanwhile, she uses the neutral word of **hard** to convey that Blair knows about what happens in Serena's family that passed a big problem, not only Blair's family.

c. Tag Questions

Tag questions rank third as the occurrence is nine out of 127 occurrences. This speech feature occurs in a situation between an outright statement or yes-no question. The example of tag questions are presented as follows.

- (4: 24) [Serena walks up to her mother, Lily, who is talking to a friend]
 Serena Mom... mom! Hey.
 Lily Oh, Serena, darling.
 [They hug each other]
 Serena So, where is he? What? **They haven't let him out, do they?**
 Lily I thought you might want to see some of your friends.
 Serena Thanks.
- (No. 2/EP1/S05/P04)

Datum (4: 24) shows that Serena uses a tag question, **they haven't let him out, do they?**. Serena found that her brother, Eric, was not in the house. Then, she was trying to ask her mother even though she knew that he was not there. However, her mother did not want to talk about him in that time. Then, Serena became annoyed about it.

- (4: 25) [Serena leaves the party]
 Blair School... so I guess she's back for good.
 Katy **You knew she was coming, didn't you?**
 Blair Course I did. I just wanted it to be a surprise.
- (No. 3/EP1/S05/P04)

Datum (4: 25) shows that the tag question occurs in Katy's line, **you knew she was coming, didn't you?** Hearing Blair's statement, Katy says the tag question. Katy was sure that Blair knew Serena was coming to the party. The reason was that Blair mentioned about Serena who was back for good.

(4: 26) Serena Let me guess: You told everyone Eric is just visiting grandpa in Rhode Island.
 Lily Your aunt Carol in Miami.
 Serena So, you're actually hiding him. He tries to take his own life.
 Now, **you're worried it will cost you 'Mom Of The Year', aren't you?**
 Lily Serena, you've been gone. Doing who knows what with god knows who...
 Serena I told you, boarding school was not like that.

(No. 4/EP1/S08/P05-P06)

Datum (4: 26) shows that the tag question appears in Serena's line, **you're worried it will cost you 'Mom Of The Year', aren't you?** Serena was sure that her mother was more worried about the title of 'Mom of the Year' than hiding Serena's brother from society. Although her mother tried to explain the true reason of hiding Serena's brother from society, Serena did not believe it.

(4: 27) Blair No, I wasn't. I hate shoots. You should have Alessandra Ambrosio, Not an amateur.
 Eleanor **You'll have dinner with me, won't you?** Steak frites and crepes at caf. I will see you later.

(No. 42/EP4/S19/P106)

The tag question occurs in Eleanor's line. The situation was she asked about dinner to Blair, her daughter. She asked **you'll have dinner with me, won't you?** She hoped that after a little problem with telling the replacement of model for the photo shoot, Blair would agree with the dinner and would not get mad at her.

d. Requests

Requests rank fourth after tag questions. It occurs four times from 127 occurrences. It means that the percentage is 3.15% of 100%. This category is in the same sense as a polite command and suggests something to be done as a favor to the speaker. The four data of requests are presented and described as follows.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| (4: 28) Blair | I don't even know why you went to boarding school to begin with. Do you know how it felt, calling your house when you didn't show up at school and having your mom say: Serena didn't tell you that she moved to Connetcticut? |
| Serena | I just... I needed to get away from everything. Please just trust me. |
- (No. 7/EP1/S18/P12)

The speech feature of gossip in Serena's line is a request, **please just trust me**. Although Blair was very confused and did not know the reason of Serena's decision to get away from everything in Manhattan, she wanted Blair to trust her about the decision. Both of them were best friends for each other, so the decision was very disadvantageous for them.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| (4: 29) Blair | I don't want to see Serena at school and she better not show up at brunch today. |
| Katy | You're really mad at Serena. |
| Isabel | Please don't get that mad at us. |

(No. 11/EP2/S06/P35)

The request form is in Isabel's line. It is written that **please don't get that mad at us**. The bold sentence shows that Isabel requests to Blair. The situation was that she hoped Blair would never be very mad at Isabel and Katy. In this situation, Blair was very mad with Serena as she did not want to see Serena at school and at the brunch. Thus, Isabel had the request to Blair.

(4: 30) Blair Well, **don't ever try to do what Serena did, please!**
 Katy No, never.
 Isabel 'Course not.

(No. 12/EP2/S06/P35)

Datum (4: 30) shows a request form in Blair's line. Blair says to Katy, **don't ever try to do what Serena did, please!** She requests to her friend to never do what Serena did. Blair means that she hoped her friend never cheated with her boyfriend like what Serena did.

(4: 31) Lily What's going on with you and Blair?
 Serena **Mom, please!** All I wanna do is just finish high school in
 peace and go away to a state with people who don't know
 who I am and just start over, okay?
 [Serena pick up her schoolbag and walks out the door. Lily walks to the
 door.]

(No. 27/EP3/S11/P70)

Datum (4: 31) contains a request form that starts with the word **please** in Serena's lines. Serena hoped that she could finish high school in peace and went away to a state with people who did not know who she was. Moreover, she wanted to start over her life. She begged to be understood by her mother and not to say anything about Blair who was in a problem with Serena.

e. Requisite Information

This speech feature of gossip is a peculiar sentence intonation-pattern that has the form of a declarative answer to a question, but has the rising inflection typical of yes-no question, as well as especially hesitant. By using requisite information, the speaker wants to give the listener the decision in the speech. As clearly seen in Table 3, this speech feature of gossip never appears since the

female characters do not show that they (the speakers) are the only one who has the requisite information when someone (the listeners) were seeing confirmation. The condition in *Gossip Girl Season 1* is that the one seeing confirmation (the listener) already has the information and the speaker does not want to give the listener the decision in the speech, so there is no data that shows this speech feature of gossip. Moreover, the female characters use tag questions instead of requisite information when they feel hesitant.

3. Functions of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

There are five functions of gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*. They are to provide information, to give entertainment, to enhance friendship, to influence others and to make social comparison. Below are the detailed explanation of each category.

a. To provide information

To provide information as one of functions of gossip comes first in the rank. It occurs 20 times out of 45 data and its percentage is 44.44%. This function of gossip occurs as an information change. It makes the speaker and the listener of the gossip able to learn cultural and social world. Moreover, it is as a map of their social environment. The example of this function of gossip is presented in the explanation below.

(4: 32) [Serena walks up to her mother, Lily, who is talking to a friend]
 Serena Mom... mom! Hey.
 Lily Oh, Serena, darling.
 [They hug each other]
 Serena So, **where is he? What? They haven't let him out yet, do they?**
 Lily **I thought you might want to see some of your friends.**
 Serena Thanks.

(No. 2/EP1/S05/P04)

Datum (4: 32) shows that the function of gossip occurs is to provide information for Serena who is looking for Eric, her brother. Serena who came to meet her mother in Blair's party, she wanted to know the information about Eric, her little brother. After a long time not seeing her brother, she missed him so much. Serena could not find her brother in that party which meant that her brother still in Ostroff Center. Moreover, her mother did not want to talk about Serena's brother in that place and said that her friends attended this party. Her mother actually provides information about Serena's friends. However, what Serena wants is the information of her brother from her mother.

Another example is presented below.

(4: 33) Lily So **did you and Dan have fun at the concert last night?**
 Serena We, uhm, never made it. **We actually ended up at the 'Kiss on the Lips' party.**

(No. 13/EP2/S15/P38-P39)

The function of gossip in datum (4: 33) is to provide information. Serena provided information to her mother that she did not go to the concert last night but ended up at Blair's party called 'Kiss on the Lips'. At first, Serena asked permission for going to the concert with her boyfriend, Dan. However, it ended up

in Blair's party. Serena's mother does know that Blair has party that night. By giving this information, her mother knows that Serena went to Blair's party.

- (4: 34) Blair **Cedric? Your brother's name?**
 Jenny **No, that was his 'Cabbage Patch Kid'. My brother's name is Dan.** Actually, you might know him. **He, uhm, he went out with Serena last night.**
 Blair **That was your brother? So does that mean you're friends with Serena now?**
 Jenny I mean, **I don't have a problem with her but if someone did have a problem with her I wouldn't have a problem with that either.**

(No. 19/EP2/S23/P47-P48)

Datum (4: 34) shows that the function of gossip that occurs is to provide information. While Jenny played Blair's doll, she told Blair that her brother's name was Dan, not Cedric. Moreover, she added that Blair met her brother in the party last night and he was the man who came with Serena in that party. However, Blair, who was in a problem with Serena, responded from the information given by Jenny that Jenny was the friend of Serena. Jenny did not accept that responds and told Blair that their problem is not hers. Thus, she did not have any problem with Serena or Blair.

- (4: 35) Blair Do you remember when Dad gave me my first Yale sweatshirt? **I don't think any piece of clothing has ever fit me more perfect, not to mention how adorable I found that bulldog.** Remember when I asked you if I could get a bulldog? Good call by the way saying no, and **now the big day is finally here. Soon Nate and I will be at college, him going down to Yale, me going up to Dartmouth. Dad flying in for the Princeton game, you like watching me grow up, don't you?**
 [The camera turns and we see that she has been talking to Dorota this whole time. Dorota turns to Blair with a breakfast tray.]
 Dorota Eat up Miss Blair. Your mom would want you to have a good breakfast.

(No. 22/EP3/S08/P69)

The function of gossip in datum (4: 35) is to provide information. Blair provides information to Dorota about her stories. Blair began with her story about her father who gave her the first Yale sweatshirt that was very perfect for her. Then, she also mentioned about the bulldog. She did not forget about Nate, her boyfriend who would be at Yale university, and her plan to Dartmouth university. The last, she also told her about her father who was flying in for the Princeton game. Thus, those stories make the function of gossip as to provide information clearly shown.

b. To give entertainment

This function comes fourth in the rank with occurrences of four times out of 45 data. It means that the percentage is 8.89% of 100%. To give entertainment becomes one of the functions of gossip because it is fun and enjoyable to deliver gossip. Moreover, it also becomes source of pleasure. It provides distraction and relief from monotonous and routine tasks. The description of this function of gossip is presented below.

(4: 36) Jenny	Wow, Blair, it's beautiful. I mean... you look beautiful.
Blair	It's average. And besides, Stella McCartney's a much better version of Bergdorf's.
Jenny	Mmm... I've been meaning to go by Bergdorf's.

(No. 16/EP2/S23/P47)

Datum (4: 36) presents the example of the function of gossip as to give entertainment. Talking about beautiful dress gives entertainment for them. The female characters of *Gossip Girl Season 1* in this datum was Jenny and Blair who

were friends in their school. Out of the school routine, they were able to talk about Stella McCartney's dress that was a much better version of Bergdorf's.

(4: 37) [Jenny walks over to Blair's bed and picks up a doll]

Jenny Wow, these dolls are great. Oh my God, **you've got 'Cabbage Patch'. My brother used to have one of these. His name was Cedric.**

Blair **Cedric? Your brother's name?**

(No. 17/EP2/S23/P47)

Datum (4: 37) shows that the function of gossip is to give entertainment because Jenny and Blair can be laughable at it. They talked about dolls in Blair's bedroom. Those dolls were very great for Jenny because she did not have many dolls in her house. Then, she spotted a doll that was similar with the doll of Jenny's brother. Jenny told Blair about the doll. However, Blair misunderstood Jenny's explanation of the doll. She thought that the name of Jenny's brother was Cedric.

(4: 38) Blair

Cedric? Your brother's name?

Jenny

No, that was his 'Cabbage Patch Kid'. My brother's name is Dan. Actually, you might know him. He, uhm, he went out with Serena last night.

(No. 18/EP2/S23/P47)

Datum (4: 38) shows the function of gossip is to give entertainment. When Jenny tried to explain about Cedric that was the name of a doll owned by her brother. It was a 'Cabbage Patch Kid'. However, her brother name was Dan. Trying to explain the misunderstanding of the name, both of them were laughing in that room.

(4: 39) Blair My God, **I forgot what it was like to be with you.**
 Serena No, **they were looking at both of us.**

(No. 34/EP4/S04/P97)

Datum (4: 39) contains the function of gossip as to give entertainment. A simple conversation talking about men who passed by can lead to give entertainment for them. When Blair and Serena were walking down the street looking for brunch, they passed men who were looking at them because they were so gorgeous. Blair thought that those men looked at Serena. Then, Serena explained that those men were looking at both of them.

c. To enhance friendship

This third function of gossip comes to the third in rank. It occurs six times out of 45 data with its percentage of 13.33%. To enhance friendship is about intimacy among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

Below is the example of this function of gossip.

(4: 40) [Serena leaves the party]
 Blair School... so **I guess she's back for good.**
 Katy **You knew she was coming, didn't you?**
 Blair Course I did. I just wanted it to be a surprise.

(No. 3/EP1/S05/P04)

Datum (4: 40) shows the function of gossip is to enhance friendship. Blair found Serena who came to her party for five minutes. She did not give greeting, but she could see Serena. It was the same as Katy, Blair's friend. Blair, Serena, and Katy were friends. Moreover, this party could make them realize that it was

true that Serena was back. Thus, datum (4: 40) shows that they are gossiping about Serena, so it enhances their friendship as they are caring about Serena.

- (4: 41) Serena So, **how's your mom doing... with the divorce and everything?**
 Blair **Great. So my dad left her for another man. She's lost 15 pounds, got an eye-lift. It's been good for her.**
 Serena **I'm really sorry.**
 Blair Yeah, I could tell since you didn't call or write the entire time it was happening.
- (No. 7/EP1/S18/P12)

Datum (4: 41) shows the function of gossip that occurs is to enhance friendship between Serena and Blair. Both of them were talking about Blair's family who went through a bad situation where her family had divorce, her father married to another man, and her mother lost 15 pounds. Blair also knew that Serena's family had a problem with Eric who tried to kill himself. To conclude, both of them share the problems to each other, so it enhances friendship between them.

- (4: 42) Jenny Hi.
 Blair What do you want?
 Jenny **I realised that I still have your calligraphy pens... from the party invitations and thought you might need them for something.**
 Blair That's the worst excuse I've ever heard. **You wanna know what Chuck Bass is saying about you.**
 Jenny No. Is he... saying things? Is anyone?
 Blair Mmh, no. Not yet anyway. Chuck likes to brag about his conquests not his victims. Come on, you can help me get ready for brunch.
 Jenny Ok, sure.
- (No. 15/EP2/S20/P43-P44)

The function of gossip in datum (4: 42) is to enhance friendship. Jenny and Blair were talking about many things. However, it began as Jenny's visited to

Blair's house. With the reason of returning the calligraphy pens, she came to her house. Blair found out the internal meaning of Jenny's visit. It was to know about the responds of Chuck Bass about the last night meeting in Blair's party. Thus, talking about Chuck Bass is able to enhance friendship between them as he is someone that both of them knew and in the same school.

(4: 43) [Blair now stops reading from the letter and puts it back inside the envelope. She looks up at Serena]

Serena **Why didn't you send it? I could've-**

Blair -You could've what!

Blair **You knew Serena and you didn't even call.**

Serena **I didn't know what to say to you. I didn't know how to be your friend after what I did. I'm so sorry.**

Blair Erik told me what happened; **I guess your family's been going through a hard time too.**

[Blair and Serena both smile at each other]

(No. 32/EP3/S42/P95)

Datum (4: 43) shows the function of gossip as to enhance friendship. Both of them were talking about a letter. The letter written by Blair should be sent to Serena, but Blair did not send it. Then, Blair read it for Serena. The respond after she read the letter was that Serena was touched by the content of the letter. She made Serena realized that she needed Serena so much when she went through many bad things happened in her life. Felling sorry after betraying a bestfriend, Serena could not call Blair in the past. That was why Serena did not call Blair nor do anything to Blair. Moreover, Blair also understood that Serena also went through bad situation in her family. Serena's family also had a hard time in that time. Both of them who were smiling at each other showed that they could feel each other's pains. Thus, this condition leads to enhance friendship for both of them.

d. To influence others

The second rank in the function of gossip is to influence others. It comes after to provide information. It occurs 13 times with its percentage of 28.9%. This function is about influencing the listener of gossip. It also to make people to be able to learn how to behave, what to do and what not to do in social life. The description of this function is presented below.

(4: 44) Blair	I don't want to see Serena at school and she better not show up at brunch today.
Katy	You're really mad at Serena.
Isabel	Please don't get that mad at us.

(No. 11/EP2/S06/P35)

To influence others as the function of gossip occurs in datum (4: 44). Isabel wants to make Blair never get mad at her and Katy. Blair was very mad with Serena so Isabel hoped Blair would not do that to her and Katy.

(4: 45) Blair	You know if you like that dress... you can have it.
Jenny	Wow, Blair, thank you, I mean, for the dress and... for the other thing... about that Chuck.
Blair	If you want to be part of this world, Jenny, people will talk... eventually. And you need to decide if all this... is worth it.

(EP2/S23/P48)

Datum (4: 45) shows that the function of gossip is to influence others. Blair wanted to influence Jenny about the conditions to enter high society in Upper East Side. One of the condition was using Blair's dress. The dress that was given by Blair was worth to enter the society. Thus, Blair wanted Jenny to learn how to part of the high society. Second, Jenny mentioned about Chuck Bass, he was a friend of Blair's. Blair also wanted to influence about Chuck who was in a

high society, so if Jenny became closer with him, Jenny would get into high society soon.

(4: 46) Serena	Mom!
Lily	Well, it's not like we have some free open relationship-
Serena	-and that's my fault!
Lily	Look, what's happened to Eric has put a huge strain on our family but we are still a family.

(No. 31/EP3/S33/P89)

Datum (4: 46) shows the function of gossip as to influence others. Serena and Lily were in a little conversation about Eric, Serena's brother. Her mother wanted to influence Serena that the Eric's case had put a huge strain on the family. Moreover, her mother pointed out more that Serena and Lily were still a family. Serena's mother did not want her to feel that they had some free open relationship.

(4: 47) Laurel	I don't think this girl is what you're trying to say... unapproachable, controlled, perfect.
Eleanor	She is not unapproachable. She is poised. She's regal.
Laurel	I know she's your daughter, and I don't want to make problems... But your girl is rigid like a twig. You know, she's afraid to let you in, so your works of art and she fail to achieve... What's the word?
Eleanor	Symbiosis. What can be done at this stage?

(No. 41/EP4/S18/P106)

Datum (4: 47) shows a function of gossip is to influence others. Laurel and Eleanor were talking about Eleanor's daughter who was done with a photoshoot in that morning. They were discussing about the result of the photoshoot. Then, Laurel found that Blair Waldorf, Eleanor's daughter, was not well-matched for a model by saying that she was rigid like a twig. Moreover, she pointed out that

Blair could not make a symbiosis with Eleanor's design. Laurel was influencing Eleanor by explaining that although Blair was Eleanor's daughter, she could not be the model for the photoshoot.

e. To make social comparison

As the last function of gossip, to make social comparison also comes last in the ranks. It only occurs twice out of 45 data. With the minor appearance, it has 4.44% of percentage. This function is to increase positive self evaluations. In the TV series, this function occurs in the following example.

(4: 48) Laurel	This one missed her cue at the Chloe' Show, because she was throwing up a pear. She was in vera's "vogue" spread.
Eleanor	I don't use vera's models. None of these are right..
Laurel	Well, that's because you're looking at the high fashion book when you should be looking for a new face... You know, someone who looks good in your clothes. Someone in this book , like I told you.

(No. 37/EP4/S06/P99)

The function of gossip in datum (4: 48) is to make social comparison. The female characters of *Gossip Girl Season 1*, Laurel and Eleanor, were friends in fashion business. In this conversation, they were gossiping about the model at the Chloe' show. The model was also in Vera's 'Vague' spread. Laurel compared the model to other models in the fashion book who already became the professional ones. Thus, this comparison will help her to find out the new face that they were looking for.

(4: 49) Laurel This one missed her cue at the Chloe' Show, because she was throwing up a pear. She was in vera's "vogue" spread.

Eleanor I don't use vera's models. None of these are right..

Laurel Well, that's because you're looking at the high fashion book when you should be looking for a new face... You know, someone who looks good in your clothes. Someone in this book, like i told you.

Eleanor **I hate the American apparel effect.**

Laurel But **they're closer to what you need. They're now, they're hip.**

Eleanor **If this person is supposed to represent Waldorf designs, you have to find me someone... worthy of the clothes.**

(No. 40/EP4/S06/P99)

Datum (4: 49) had a similarity with datum (4: 48). It began as the discussion of the Vera's model and the models in the fashion books. However, this datum was followed by the fact that the main producer of the photo shoot was Eleanor. She did not like the American apparel effect. It was just the comparison by Laurel who insisted that they should use the famous model. Then, Eleanor compared the models to Waldorf design. She evaluated whether it would be a match or not. The result was that the models were not worthy of the clothes.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of two sections. They are conclusions and suggestions. The first is conclusions, which summarize the research findings proposed. Then, the second section is suggestions, in which several matters suggested to other researchers, linguistic students and also lecturers are presented.

A. Conclusions

Based on the research findings and discussions concerned with gossip among female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*, there are three main conclusions that can be drawn.

First, with regard to the data analysis dealing with the types of gossip, the female characters in the TV series perform four types of gossip: house talk, scandal, bitching and chatting. The most dominant one is chatting since it is the most intimate type of gossip. Many women who have close friendships use chatting to deliver their gossip. On the other hand, the type of gossip having the lowest rank in the occurrences is scandal. It has the lowest occurrences since the female characters of *Gossip Girl Season 1* rarely judge other women's behaviour.

Second, in terms of speech features of gossip, female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* apply four speech features of gossip: meaningless particles, neutral words, tag questions and requests. Here, the most dominant speech features of gossip is neutral words. This speech feature occurs in the research because the female characters want to point out the important things from the gossip and to continue explaining what happens in the gossip, so they use the neutral words in

the forms of adjectives. Lastly, the speech feature that is not used by female characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1* is requisite information which allows the speaker to give the listener the decision in the speech.

Finally, dealing with the functions of gossip, there are five functions of gossip. They are to provide information, to give entertainment, to enhance friendship, to influence others and to make social comparison. The first rank is to provide information since the basic purpose in gossiping is to deliver information to other women. Women like to have the updated information, so they mostly try to find gossip. On the other hand, there is the function of gossip as to make social comparison that has the lowest rank because the female characters do not compare and evaluate things around their life. They are confident with their personality and identity.

B. Suggestions

Considering the conclusions drawn above, the suggestions are proposed as follows.

1. To other researchers

Many movies portray the phenomenon of gossip. However, they do not provide enough data to be the data source. Fortunately, *Gossip Girl Season 1* provides enough and credible data which can represent the phenomena of gossip. However, this research only studies the types, speech features and functions of gossip. Therefore, it is a good chance for other researchers to do a further study, especially in exploring the phenomena of gossip.

2. To linguistics students

It is important for the linguistics students to acknowledge the language phenomena, especially the phenomenon of gossip. Therefore, the researcher suggests more students to conduct research in sociolinguistics, especially on the relation of language and society.

3. To the lecturers

It is expected that this result can give additional knowledge about how the language is related to society, especially in gossip topic. Moreover, the research also hopefully gives additional examples of the gossip topic.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Types, Speech Features, and Functions of Gossip among Female Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*

Note:

No. : Number of Datum

Code: EP1/S02/P03: Episode 1/Number of Scene/Page Number of Script

Characters:

Lily : Lillian van der Woodsen
Serena : Serena van der Woodsen
Jenny : Jenny Humphrey
Katy : Kati Farkas
Blair : Blair Waldorf
Isabel : Isabel Coates
Dorota : Dorota Kishlovsky
Eleanor : Eleanor Waldorf
Laurel : Laurel

Types of Gossip:

HT : House Talk
SD : Scandal
BI : Bitching
CH : Chatting

Speech Features of Gossip :

MP : Meaningless Particles
NW : Neutral Words
TQ : Tag Questions
RI : Requisite Information
RE : Requests

Functions of Gossip:

IN : To provide information
EN : To give entertainment
FR : To enhance friendship
IF : To influence others
SC : To make social comparison

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
1.	EP1/S 02/P0 3	<p>[Isabel and Katy are reading their text messages]</p> <p>Katy My god, you'll never believe what's on 'Gossip Girl'.</p> <p>Isabel Someone saw Serena get off a train at Grand Central.</p>		√			√					√					<p>The situation was that Katy and Isabel were together in their school. While they were waiting for the next class, Katy showed the text messages from 'Gossip Girl' that contained gossip about Serena who got off from a train at Grand Central. This gossip belongs to scandal type and contains meaningless particles of my god. The function of this gossip is to provide information.</p>
2.	EP1/S 05/P0 4	<p>[Serena walks up to her mother, Lily, who is talking to a friend]</p> <p>Serena Mom... mom! Hey.</p> <p>Lily Oh (2a), Serena, darling.</p> <p>[They hug each other]</p>				√						√					<p>The situation was that Serena asked to her mother, Lily about her brother, Eric, who was not present in a party that was held by Blair, Serena's friend. The gossip appearing in this dialogue belongs to chatting type. Moreover, there are two speech features in this datum. The first one is the meaningless particle of oh (2a) in Lily's line. The second one</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		<p>Serena So, where is he? What? They haven't let him out, do they? (2b)</p> <p>Lily I thought you might want to see some of your friends.</p> <p>Serena Thanks.</p>							√								is the tag question of they haven't let him out, do they? (2b) in Serena's line. The situation was that she was hesitant whether her brother was already out or not from Ostroff Center. The function of this gossip is to provide information. The situation was that Serena wanted information about where Eric was from her mother.
3.	EP1/S 05/P0 4	<p>[Serena leaves the party]</p> <p>Blair School... so I guess she's back for good.</p> <p>Katy You knew she was coming, didn't you?</p> <p>Blair Course I did. I just wanted it to be a surprise.</p>				√								√			Blair and Katy use chatting as gossip type. In this scene, the situation was that they were gossiping about Serena who was back to Manhattan. The speech feature in this gossip is a tag question in Katy's line. The situation was that she was lack confidence in the truth whether Blair already knew that Serena was back to Manhattan or not. The function of this gossip is to enhance friendship between them.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
4.	EP1/S 08/P0 5-P06	<p>Serena Let me guess: You told everyone Eric is just visiting grandpa in Rhode Island.</p> <p>Lily Your aunt Carol in Miami.</p> <p>Serena So, you're actually hiding him. He tries to take his own life. Now, you're worried (4b) it will cost you 'Mom Of The Year', aren't you? (4a)</p> <p>Lily Serena, you've been gone. Doing who knows what with god knows who...</p> <p>Serena I told you, boarding school was not like that.</p>				√						√					Both of them are using a type of gossip called chatting. The situation was that they talked about Eric, Serena's brother. Serena was Lily's daughter. She asked about the condition of Eric recently. She was worried about hiding him from society. Meanwhile, the speech features occur in this datum is a neutral word of worried (4b) and the tag question in Serena's line, you're worried it will cost you 'Mom Of The Year', aren't you? (4a) . The situation was that she was hesitant about her brother. Furthermore, the function of gossip in this datum is to provide information about Eric's hiding place.
5.	EP1/S 18/P1 2	<p>Serena So, how's your mom doing... with the divorce and everything?</p>				√								√			The gossip type appears in this datum is chatting. The situation was that both of them, Serena and Blair, were as the only daughter from each family.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		<p>Blair Great (5a). So my dad left her for another man. She's lost 15 pounds, got an eye-lift. It's been good (5b) for her.</p> <p>Serena I'm really sorry (5c).</p> <p>Blair Yeah (5d), I could tell since you didn't call or write the entire (5e) time it was happening.</p>						√									Being a daughter, Serena asked about Blair's mother condition after the divorce. Meanwhile, the using of the word of great (5a) , good (5b) in Blair's line shows that the speech feature used in this datum is neutral words. The other neutral words are sorry (5c) in the Serena's line and entire (5e) in Blair's line. The meaningless particle of yeah (5d) appears in Blair's line. Moreover, the function of gossip in this datum is to enhance friendship between Serena and Blair.
6.	EP1/S 18/P1 2	<p>Serena No, I know (6a)... I was just (6b)... boarding school... it's like (6c)...</p>				√	√ √ √							√			This datum shows the chatting type of gossip because they are talking to each other as a daughter and a student. The situation was that Serena told about why she had to go from Blair for a long time. Meanwhile, Blair showed about how she felt when she called Serena's mother.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		<p>Blair</p> <p>I don't even know why you went to boarding school to begin with. Do you know how it felt, calling your house when you didn't show up at school and having your mom say: Serena didn't tell you that she moved to Connetticut?</p>															<p>The meaningless particles in Serena's utterances are I know (6a), I was just (6b), It's like (6c). Moreover, the function of gossip in this datum is to enhance friendship between them. The situation was that Serena needed trust from Blair about the reason of why she had to go.</p>
7.	EP1/S18/P12	<p>Blair</p> <p>I don't even know why you went to boarding school to begin with. Do you know how it felt, calling your house when you didn't show up at school and having your mom say: Serena didn't tell you that she moved to Connetticut?</p> <p>Serena</p> <p>I just (7a)... I needed to get away from everything.</p> <p>Please just trust me. (7b)</p>				√								√			<p>In this datum, the type of gossip that occurs is chatting. The situation was that Serena was talking about her mother who gave shocking news for Blair. Serena felt so sorry to Blair. She apologized to Blair. Meanwhile, the meaningless particle used in Serena's line is I just (7a) and a request of please just trust me (7b) in Serena's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to enhance friendship between Serena and Blair.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
8.	EP1/S 38/P1 9	<p>Serena Hey, mom.</p> <p>Lily Guess what I found for you... a dress for 'Kiss On The Lips'. I saw the invitation on the nightstand.</p> <p>Serena Oh, I'm not going to that.</p> <p>Lily What do you mean? Blair's throwing it.</p>				√	√					√					<p>Lily and Serena do chatting in this datum. The situation was that Lily, Serena's mother, found the invitation to Blair's party. However, Serena would not go to the party. The speech feature that appears is meaningless particle of oh in Serena's utterance. Meanwhile, the function of gossip in this datum is to provide information about Serena's decision to skip Blair's party.</p>
9.	EP1/S 38/P1 9	<p>Serena Yeah (9a), uhm (9b)... see the problem is I... by the time I got the invitation... I uhm (9c), actually already had plans.</p> <p>Lily Plans with whom?</p> <p>Serena My friend.</p>	√				√ √ √					√					<p>The type of gossip that appears is house talk. The situation was that Lily and Serena were talking about plans that Serena already had. She actually had plans to go to another place with her friend, Dan Humphrey. That was why she did not go to Blair's party. Then, the speech features in</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
																	this datum is meaningless particles of yeah (9a) , uhm (9b) , and uhm (9c) . Moreover, the function of gossip between Serena and Lily is to provide information.
10.	EP1/S 49/P2 5	<p>[Isabel and Katy both get new text messages]</p> <p>Isabel and Katy Serena's here, isn't she?</p> <p>Blair What is she doing here? She wasn't invited.</p>			√				√			√					<p>The type of gossip in this datum is bitching. The situation was that Isabel, Katy and Blair were talking about Serena who came to the Blair's party. They felt annoyed. Blair was sure that Serena was not invited. However, Blair did not know that Jenny, one of Blair's friends, gave the invitation to Serena. Meanwhile, the speech feature that appears is a tag question in Blair's line, Serena's here, isn't she? In addition, the function of gossip that appears is to provide information.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
11.	EP2/S 06/P3 5	<p>Blair I don't want to see Serena at school and she better not show up at brunch today.</p> <p>Katy You're really mad (11a) at Serena.</p> <p>Isabel Please don't get that mad (11b) at us. (11c)</p>			√										√		Type of gossip in this datum is bitching. The situation was when Blair, Katy and Isabel were talking about Serena, Blair was very mad with Serena. Katy and Isabel realized this situation. There are neutral words of mad (11a) and mad (11c) . Then, Isabel uses speech feature of gossip called request, please don't get that mad at us (11c) . The function of this gossip is to influence others. The situation was that Isabel hoped that Blair would never get mad at them.
12.	EP2/S 06/P3 5	<p>Blair Well (12a), don't ever try to do what Serena did, please! (12b)</p> <p>Katy No, never.</p> <p>Isabel 'Course not.</p>			√		√								√		Bitching is the type of gossip in this datum. The speech feature that occurs is a meaningless particle of well (12a) and a request in Blair's line, don't ever try to do what Serena did, please! (12b) . Then, the function of gossip is to influence others. Blair told to Katy and Isabel that they would never do what Serena did.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
13.	EP2/S 15/P3 8-P39	<p>Lily So did you and Dan have fun at the concert last night?</p> <p>Serena We, uhm, never made it. We actually ended up at the 'Kiss On The Lips' party.</p>				√	√					√					<p>The situation was that Lily and Serena talked to each other in the living room. They were gossiping about Serena's date with Dan Humphrey. The date actually did not go well. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. Then, the speech feature that occurs is meaningless particle of uhm. Then, the function of gossip is to provide information to Lily that the date ended up at Blair's party.</p>
14.	EP2/S 15/P3 8-P39	<p>Lily Ah (14a), well (14b)... that must have pleased Blair.</p> <p>Serena Blair? Actually no, not that pleased (14c). Which is why I'm going to talk to her.</p>				√	√ √					√					<p>The gossip type in this datum is chatting. The situation was Lily and Serena talked about Blair as Serena went to Blair's party that made Blair be mad at Serena. The speech feature in this datum is meaningless particles of ah (14a) and well (14b) in Lily's line. There is also a neutral word of pleased (14c) in Serena's line. The function of gossip is to provide information.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
15.	EP2/S 20/P4 3-P44	<p>Jenny Hi. Blair What do you want?</p> <p>Jenny I realised that I still have your calligraphy pens... from the party invitations and thought you might need them for something.</p> <p>Blair That's the worst (15a) excuse I've ever heard. You wanna know what Chuck Bass is saying about you.</p> <p>Jenny No. Is he... saying things? Is anyone?</p> <p>Blair Mmh (15b), no. Not yet anyway. Chuck likes to brag about his conquests not his victims. Come on, you can help me get ready (15c) for brunch.</p>			√									√			<p>Type of gossip in this datum is bitching. When women talk about another man, it belongs to bitching. The situation was that Jenny, Dan's sister, talked to Blair about a man named Chuck Bass. This man was a friend of Blair. After Jenny and Chuck met at Blair's party, she was wondering about what Chuck was saying to Blair recently. Meanwhile, the speech features that occur in this datum is neutral words of worst (15a) and ready (15c) in Blair's line and meaningless particles of mmh (15b) that is found in Blair's line too. Then, the function of gossip is to enhance friendship between the girls, Blair and Jenny. At first, there is a gap between them. However, talking about many things makes them closer.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation	
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C		
		Jenny Ok, sure.																
16.	EP2/S 23/P4 7	Jenny Wow (16a) , Blair, it's beautiful (16b) . I mean (16c) ... you look beautiful (16d) . Blair It's average (16e) . And besides, Stella McCartney's a much better version of Bergdorf's. Jenny Mmm (16f) ... I've been meaning to go by Bergdorf's.				√	√ √	√ √					√					The situation was Jenny and Blair were talking about beautiful dresses that were made by famous designers. This gossip belongs to chatting type. Then, the speech features that occur are meaningless particles: wow (16a) , I mean (16b) and mmm (16f) in Jenny's lines, and neutral words: beautiful (16b) and beautiful (16d) in Jenny's line. Then, a neutral word of average (16e) is in Blair's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to give entertainment, because talking about McCartney's and Bergdorf's dresses makes them amused and gives them a pleasure.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
17.	EP2/ S23/P 47	<p>[Jenny walks over to Blair's bed and picks up a doll]</p> <p>Jenny Wow (17a), these dolls are great (17b). Oh my God (17c), you've got 'Cabbage Patch'. My brother used to have one of these. His name was Cedric.</p> <p>Blair Cedric? Your brother's name?</p>				√	√ √	√					√				Type of gossip in this datum is chatting. The situation was Jenny found many dolls in Blair's bedroom and was so happy to see those dolls. Then, she remembered that her brother used to have a doll like Blair's. Her brother named it Cedric. However, Blair misunderstood about it. The speech features are meaningless particles of wow (17a) and oh my god (17c) in Jenny's lines. There is a neutral word of great (17b) in Jenny's line too. The function of gossip is to give entertainment.
18.	EP2/ S23/P 47	<p>Blair Cedric? Your brother's name?</p> <p>Jenny No, that was his 'Cabbage Patch Kid'. My brother's name is Dan. Actually, you might know him. He, uhm, he went out with Serena last night.</p>				√	√						√				Chatting is the type of gossip in this datum. The situation was Jenny looked at Cabbage Patch in Blair's room that was like a doll that her brother had at home. She told the name of the doll was Cedric to Blair, but Blair misunderstood about it. Then, she explained that the name of her brother was Dan

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
																	who went out with Serena last night. The speech feature in this datum is a meaningless particle of uhm in Jenny's line. Moreover, the function of this gossip is to give entertainment for them to talk about those dolls.
19.	EP2/ S23/P 47- P48	<p>Blair Cedric? Your brother's name?</p> <p>Jenny No, that was his 'Cabbage Patch Kid'. My brother's name is Dan. Actually, you might know him. He, uhm, he went out with Serena last night.</p> <p>Blair That was your brother? So does that mean you're friends with Serena now?</p> <p>Jenny I mean, I don't have a problem with her but if someone did have a problem with her I wouldn't</p>		√								√					<p>The type of gossip is scandal. The situation was that Blair and Jenny talked about a doll. Blair did not realize that a man who went with Serena last night was Jenny's brother. There is a speech feature in Jenny's utterance that is meaningless particle of I mean. She uses it as pause filler. The situation was she tried to explain that eventhough Blair had a problem with Serena, she did not have a problem with Blair and Serena. The function of the gossip in this datum is to provide information. The</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		have a problem with that either.															situation was that Jenny knew that Blair was looking for information of Serena's date.
20.	EP2/S 23/P4 8	<p>Blair You know (20a)... if you like that dress... you can have it.</p> <p>Jenny Wow (20b), Blair, thank you, I mean (20c), for the dress and... for the other thing... about that Chuck.</p> <p>Blair If you want to be part of this world, Jenny, people will talk... eventually. And you need to decide if all this... is worth (20d) it.</p>			√		√								√		<p>The situation was Blair gave a beautiful dress to Jenny because it seemed like that she loved the dress. She became so happy and thanked again for information about Chuck. The type of gossip is bitching. The speech feature is meaningless particles; you know (20a) in Blair's line, and wow (20b) and I mean (20c) in Jenny's line. Moreover, there is also a neutral word of worth (20d) in Blair's line. Then, the function of this gossip is to influence others. Blair influenced her to decide that all of dresses and wealth she had were worth it.</p>
21.	EP2/S 24/P4 9	<p>Serena Mom, I really don't think it's a good (21a) idea for me to go to that brunch.</p>				√		√							√		<p>The type of gossip in this datum is chatting between Serena and Lily. The situation was that they were talking about a brunch in Chuck's</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		<p>Lily You promised.</p> <p>Serena Yeah, but that was before... before I knew Dan was hungry (21b) too. I can't let the boy starve.</p> <p>Lily He's not invited.</p> <p>Serena Yeah (21c), that's why I'm going with him.</p>						√									<p>event. Serena did not agree to go alone to the brunch at first. Then, she was going with Dan with a reason that Dan was hungry. The speech features of gossip found in Serena's lines are neutral words of good (21a) and hungry (21b) and a meaningless particle of yeah (21c). Then, gossip function in this datum is to influence others. Here, the situation was Serena was trying to influence her mother that she would go to the brunch with a condition. The condition was that Dan was also going to the brunch.</p>
22.	EP3/S 08/P6 9	<p>Blair Do you remember when Dad gave me my first Yale sweatshirt? I don't think any piece of clothing has ever fit (22a) me more perfect (22b), not to mention how adorable I found that bulldog. Remember when I asked you if I could get a bulldog? Good (22c) call by the</p>				√		√	√	√		√					<p>Chatting is the type of gossip in this datum. The situation was Blair told her stories to Dorota about her first Yale sweatshirt, the bulldog, and her boyfriend named Nate. Blair and Dorota were in Blair's bedroom. In this TV Series, Dorota was as a housekeeper in her house. They were so close,</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		<p>way saying no, and now the big (22d) day is finally here. Soon Nate and I will be at college, him going down to Yale, me going up to Dartmouth. Dad flying in for the Princeton game, you like watching me growing up, don't you? (22e)</p> <p>[The camera turns and we see that she has been talking to Dorota this whole time. Dorota turns to Blair with a breakfast tray.]</p> <p>Dorota Eat up Miss Blair. Your mom would want you to have a good (22f) breakfast.</p>						√									so it was not a problem to tell her stories to Dorota. Moreover, the speech features in this datum are neutral words and a tag question. The neutral words of fit (22a) , perfect (22b) , good (22c) and big (22d) are in Blair's line. The other neutral word is good (22f) in Dorota's line. Then, the tag question of you like watching me growing up, don't you? (22e) is in Blair's line. Lastly, gossip function in this datum is to provide information to Dorota.
23.	EP3/S 09/P6 9	<p>[Int Constance/St Jude's - Blair turn to Kati and Isabel]</p> <p>Blair Serena's really not here, isn't she?</p> <p>Kati That's what I said.</p>		√								√					The situation was Blair, Kati and Isabel were sitting together in the school assembly in that morning. Blair asked to her friends about Serena who were not seen in this assembly. This datum shows a type of gossip called scandal as Blair is interested in the appearance of

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		Isabel When you weren't supposed to be talking!															Serena, her friend. The speech feature in this datum is a tag question of Serena's really not here, isn't she? , in Blair's line. Meanwhile, the function of gossip is to provide information.
24.	EP3/S 11/P7 0	Lily You know (24a) ... you shouldn't have stayed at your brother's again. Why sleep there? It's not like he can even see you, his eyes are closed (24b) . [Serena is packing her schoolbag] Serena Do you have one maternal (24c) bone in your entire (24d) body? Lily It's Ivy Week, Serena.				√	√								√		The situation was that Lily and Serena were talking in the morning. While Serena was packing her schoolbag, her mother asked her to stay at the hotel with her mother and to get a rest. However, she did not follow her mother's orders. The type of gossip found in this datum is chatting. The speech features in this datum are a meaningless particle and neutral words. The meaningless particle of you know (24a) is in Lily's line. Then, the neutral words are closed (24b) , maternal (24c) and entire (24d) . Meanwhile, the function of gossip in this datum is to influence others.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
25	EP3/S 11/P7 0	<p>Lily</p> <p>It's Ivy Week, Serena.</p> <p>[Lily hands Serena a lip gloss and Serena applies it in front of the mirror]</p> <p>Serena</p> <p>I know (25a) ... If I can get out of this hotel room, it's my sole (25b) ambition in life to impress the Brown rep.</p> <p>Lily</p> <p>I'm so thrilled (25c) to hear that that's still your plan. I know it's something we've always talked about but honestly since you've been back I've wondered if your mind was even on college.</p>				√	√								√		<p>The situation was that while Serena was preparing for going to school, she told her mother that she still had the ambition to go to Brown university. That was why she hoped to impress the Brown representative in the Ivy Week. Her mother was so thrilled by hearing her ambition. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. Then, the speech features are a meaningless particle and neutral words. There is a meaningless particle of I know (25a) in Serena's line. The neutral words of sole (25b) and thrilled (25c) are in Serena's and Lily's lines. Moreover, the function of gossip in this datum is to influence others. Serena wants to influence her mother that she still has the ambition to go to Brown university.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
26.	EP3/S 11/P7 0	<p>Serena Mom I've had my mind on a lot of things. Since recent (26a) events, going away to college sounds pretty good (26b).</p> <p>Lily Well (26c)... how did you leave things with Dan?</p> <p>Serena I don't wanna talk about it.</p>				√		√				√					<p>The situation was that Serena and her mother were talking about the plan to go to college. However, she did not want to talk about Dan, her boyfriend. Here, the type of gossip found in this datum is chatting. Meanwhile, the speech features appeared in this datum are a meaningless particle and neutral words. The word well (26c) in Lily's line does not mean anything, so it is called a meaningless particle. Then, the neutral words in Serena's line are recent (26a) and good (26b). The function of gossip in this datum is to provide information.</p>
27.	EP3/S 11/P7 0	<p>Lily What's going on with you and Blair?</p> <p>Serena Mom, please! All I wanna do is just finish high school in peace and go away to a state with people who don't know who I</p>				√					√				√		<p>The situation was that Lily asked Serena about Blair, her friend. Serena did not want to talk about Blair. The type of gossip appeared in this datum is chatting. The speech feature in this datum is a request. The word please in Serena's line indicates a polite request. The</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		am and just start over. [Serena pick up her schoolbag and walks out the door. Lily walks to the door.]															situation was that she told her mother that all she wanted was to finish her school and to go to a state where no one knew about her. The function of gossip is to influence her mother about Serena's decision.
28.	EP3/S 17/P7 4	[Int Waldorf Home - Blair is lying on a chaise lounge whilst Kati and Isabel sit and press cold compresses onto her leg] Kati I can't believe Serena did this. Isabel Yeah (28a) , such a cheap (28b) shot. [Blair's phone starts ringing, Blair looks at it and Kati and Isabel turn to face her. Blair answers the phone] Blair Finally.			√										√		The situation was that after a little fight in doing hockey at school; Kati, Isabel and Blair arrived in Blair's home. Kati and Isabel started to heal the pain on Blair's leg because of Serena. In this datum, the type of gossip is bitching. They are talking about what Serena did to Blair. The speech feature found in this datum is a meaningless particle of yeah (28a) and a neutral word of cheap (28b) . Moreover, the function of gossip is to influence others.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
29.	EP3/S 22/P7 7-P78	<p>Serena I've been in these sessions everyday for a week but nothing is going to change unless you stop hiding him here and lets him have his life back.</p> <p>Lily This is not called hiding Serena, it's called recovery.</p> <p>Serena Telling everyone he's staying with Aunt Carol in Miami?</p> <p>Lily He's not ready.</p> <p>Serena He's not or you are not?</p>				√									√		<p>The situation was that Serena and her mother were talking about the purpose of hiding her little brother from everyone. Her mother told people that Serena's little brother was staying in Miami, but the fact was that he was in the Ostroff Treatment Center. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. Then, the speech feature is a neutral word of ready in Lily's line. The function of the gossip is to influence others. The situation was that Serena asked her mother to stop hiding her little brother.</p>
30.	EP3/S 26/P8 1	<p>Serena Do you see the Yale rep?</p> <p>Lily I thought you wanted to go to Brown and Blair wanted to go to Yale?</p> <p>[They start walking into the</p>	√												√		<p>The situation was when the Ivy Week held in Serena's school, it was visited by Serena's family. Serena, her mother and her little brother came to find the representative of Brown University. The type of gossip found is house talk as Serena</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		party again] Serena Yeah , I know.					√										asks her mother where the Yale representative was. However, the main university that Serena looks for is Brown. The speech feature that is used is meaningless particle of yeah Serena's line. The function of gossip is to influence others.
31.	EP3/S 33/P8 9	Serena Mom! Lily Well (31a) , it's not like we have some free (31b) open (31c) relationship- [Serena is now enraged] Serena -and that's my fault! Lily What's happened to Eric has put a huge (31d) strain on our family but we are still a family.				√	√								√		The situation was that Serena got a problem coming from Blair who told everyone in the Ivy Week that Serena was suffering from alcoholic since she saw Serena who went to Ostroff Center. The truth was that the patient in Ostroff Center was Eric suffered from nervous breakdown. Her mother tried to calm her down. The type of gossip is chatting, and the speech feature is the meaningless particle of well (31a) in Lily's line. There is also neutral words of free (31b), open (31c) and huge (31d) in Lily's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to influence others.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
32.	EP3/S 42/P9 5	<p>[Blair now stops reading from the letter and puts it back inside the envelope. She looks up at Serena]</p> <p>Serena Why didn't you send it? I could've-</p> <p>Blair -You could've what!</p> <p>Blair You knew Serena and you didn't even call.</p> <p>Serena I didn't know what to say to you. I didn't know how to be your friend after what I did. I'm so sorry (32a).</p> <p>Blair Erik told me what happened; I guess your family's been going through a hard (32b) time too.</p> <p>[Blair and Serena both smile at each other]</p>				√								√			<p>The situation was that Blair found Serena sitting alone in the central park. She came to make an apology. Then, she read a letter written by Blair herself. Reading the letter made Blair and Serena to fall in tears. The fact was that they were missing each other, but Blair did not know where Serena was. Moreover, Serena felt so sorry to her. They finally reconciled with each other. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. Moreover, the speech feature in this datum is neutral words of sorry (32a) and hard (32b) that are found in Blair's lines. The function of gossip is to enhance friendship between Serena and Blair in this datum.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
33.	EP4/S 02/P9 6	<p>Blair</p> <p>Did we have plans?</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>Darling, it is impolite (33a) to interrupt. I was just telling Serena that Bendel's is interested (33b) in carrying my line.</p> <p>Blair</p> <p>Oh (33c), that's fantastic (33d)! Why didn't you say something?</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>I came back from Paris early to put together my look book, and if they like what they see, it could be the beginning of an entire (33e) lifestyle collection.</p>	√									√					<p>The situation was that Blair woke up in the morning because of the laughs of her mother and Serena. She went to the living room where the laughs came from. She took her mother to the dining room. They were talking about her mother business that gained interest from Bendel's brand. The type of gossip in this datum is house talk. The speech features found are a meaningless particle and neutral words. The meaningless particle of oh (33c) is in Blair's line. Then, the neutral words of impolite (33a), interested (33b) and entire (33e) are in Eleanor's lines. The neutral word of fantastic (33d) is in Blair's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to provide information to her daughter.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
34.	EP4/S 04/P9 7	<p>Blair</p> <p>My God, I forgot what it was like to be with you.</p> <p>Serena</p> <p>No, they were looking at both of us.</p>			√		√						√				<p>The situation was that Blair and Serena were walking down the street looking for brunch. They passed men who were looking at them because they were so gorgeous. Blair thought that those men were looking at Serena. The type of gossip in this datum is bitching. The speech feature is the meaningless particle of My God in Blair's line. Meanwhile, the function of this gossip is to give entertainment.</p>
35.	EP4/S 04/P9 7	<p>Blair</p> <p>Don't insult me. It's been like this all morning, starting with your lovely visit with my mother. She didn't even call me to tell me she was coming home.</p> <p>Serena</p> <p>Well (35a), she was busy (35b). She was rushing to get home and everything because she wanted to see you.</p>			√		√	√				√					<p>The situation was that Blair and Serena were talking about why Blair's mother did not wake up her up in that morning, but her mother were talking with Serena in the living room. Then, Serena explained everything to Blair. The type of gossip in this datum is bitching. Meanwhile, the speech features in this datum are the meaningless particles of well (35a) and well (35c) in Serena's line and</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		Blair She did not even wake me up. Serena Well (35c) , you know how Eleanor feels about beauty rest.															a neutral word of busy (35b) in Serena's line. The function of in this gossip is to provide information to Serena about Blair's feeling when Blair's mother did not wake up her daughter and did not inform that she would come back home that morning.
36.	EP4/S 04/P9 8	Blair That was disgusting (36a) . The D.O.H. should shut them down. Serena The bathroom, isn't it? (36b) Blair No, the people ... it's called Nolita, not "no shower".			√			√				√					The situation was that Blair complained about the people in Nolita (North of Little Italy). She said that the D.O.H. (Department of Health) should shut them down since they were so disgusting and did not take shower. Type of gossip in this datum is bitching because it contains Blair's complaints. The speech feature used is a neutral word of disgusting (36a) and a tag question of the bathroom, isn't it? in Serena's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to provide information.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
37.	EP4/S 06/P9 9	<p>Laurel</p> <p>This one missed her cue at the Chloe' Show, because she was throwing up a pear. She was in vera's "vogue" spread.</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>I don't use vera's models. None of these are right..</p>	√													√	<p>The situation was that Laurel was Eleanor's friend who were working together at fashion business. They wanted to find a new face for modeling the upcoming photo shoot by comparing the models in Chloe's show and Vogue. The type of gossip in this datum is house talk. The speech feature in this datum is the neutral word of right in Eleanor's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to make social comparison.</p>
38.	EP4/S 06/P9 9	<p>Laurel</p> <p>Well (38a), that's because you're looking at the high (38b) fashion book when you should be looking for a new (38c) face... You know, someone who looks good (38d) in your clothes. Someone in this book, like I told you.</p>	√				√									√	<p>Type of gossip in this datum is house talk between Laurel and Eleanor. The situation was that they were looking for a new face for the upcoming photoshoot. As a well known designer in USA, Eleanor wanted to find a new face for this project. Laurel suggested the models in book who would</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		Eleanor I hate the American apparel effect. Laurel But they're closer (38e) to what you need. They're now, they're hip (38f) .						√									look good in Eleanor's design, but Eleanor did not like them. She hated the apparel effect. Moreover, the speech features are a meaningless particle of well (38a) in Laurel's line and the neutral words in Laurel's lines too. Those neutral words are high (38b) , new (38c) , good (38d) , closer (38e) and hip (38f) . The function of gossip is to make social comparison between someone who already in the magazines and modelling books.
39.	EP4/S 06/P9 9	Eleanor If this person is supposed to represent Waldorf designs, you have to find me someone... worthy (39a) of the clothes. Laurel Yeah (39b)	√					√				√					The situation was that Eleanor and Laurel were talking about the model for the upcoming project. Eleanor wanted someone who was worthy of the clothes. Then, she remembered about her daughter who was like her so that she would perfectly represent the Waldorf lifestyle. The type of gossip in this datum is house talk.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
		Eleanor Someone like me. Mm (39c) . Someone like ... my daughter.					√										Meanwhile, the speech features in this datum are a neutral word of worthy (39a) ; and meaningless particles of yeah (39b) and mm (39c) . Moreover, the function of gossip in this datum is to provide information.
40.	EP4/S 06/P9 9	Laurel Well... why not her? You want your line to represent the waldorf lifestyle. Who better to represent you than one of your own family? Eleanor She was my first dress form.	√				√					√					The situation was that after a long discussion, Laurel got the same idea with Eleanor. Laurel agreed to make Eleanor's daughter as the main model for the upcoming photoshoot. Moreover, Eleanors told her that her daughter, Blair, was her first dress form. The type of gossip in this datum is a house talk. Then, the speech feature is a meaningless particle of well . Then, the function of gossip is to provide information.

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
41.	EP4/S 18/P1 06	<p>Laurel</p> <p>I don't think this girl is what you're trying to say... unapproachable (41a), controlled (41b), perfect (41c).</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>She is not unapproachable (41d). She is poised (41e). She's regal (41f).</p> <p>Laurel</p> <p>I know she's your daughter, and I don't want to make problems... But your girl is rigid (41g) like a twig. You know (41h), she's afraid (41i) to let you in, so your works of art and she fail to achieve... What's the word?</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>Symbiosis. What can be done at this stage?</p>	√												√		<p>The situation was that Laurel was one of Eleanor's business partner. She found that Eleanor's daughter had flaws for modelling. Her daughter was beautiful, but unperfect for being a model. The type of gossip in this datum is house talk. Then, the speech features in this datum are a meaningless particle and neutral words. The meaningless particle of you know (41h) is in Laurel's line. The neutral words in Laurel's lines are unapproachable (41a), controlled (41b), perfect (41c), rigid (41g) and afraid (41i). Meanwhile, the neutral words in Eleanor's lines are unapproachable (41d), poised (41e) and regal (41f). The function of gossip in this datum is to influence others.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
42.	EP4/S 19/P1 06	<p>Eleanor</p> <p>Finally, you're awake (42a).</p> <p>Blair</p> <p>Am I late (42b)? Oh, my god (42c). Oh, my god (42d). Did I oversleep?</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>Darling, I have some bad (42e) news. Laurel thinks we need to go in a different (42f) direction.</p>				√		√				√					<p>The situation was that Blair Waldorf overslept, but it was not a problem for her mother. Eleanor told her daughter, Blair, that the photo shoot for that day would go to different direction. However, it was a lie. She lied to her daughter about the reason of why the photoshoot was going to a different direction. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. Then, the speech features in this datum are meaningless particles and neutral words. The meaningless particles of oh my god (42c) and oh my god (42d) are in Blair's line. Then, the neutral words of awake (42a), bad (42e), and different (42f) are in Eleanor's line. The other neutral word of late (42b) is in Blair's line. The function of gossip in this datum is to provide information.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
43.	EP4/S 19/P1 06	<p>Blair</p> <p>With the theme, isn't it? (43a)</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>With the model. Darling, I hired these people for their expertise, and ultimately, they feel that... We would be doing the brand a disservice. I cannot apologize enough (43b). I know that you were really looking forward to this.</p>				√			√			√					<p>The situation was that Eleanor gave bad news for her daughter about the photo shoot that needed to go in different direction. Blair hesitated so she asked if it was about the theme that needed to be changed as she was so happy being the model. However, it was not about the theme, but the model. It meant that Blair would not become the model. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. The speech feature in this datum is a tag question in Blair's line, with the theme, isn't it? (43a). The other one is a neutral word of enough (43b) The function of this gossip is to provide information.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
44.	EP4/S 19/P1 06	<p>Blair</p> <p>No, I wasn't. I'm happy (44a) I don't have to go. I hate shoots. They're so boring (44b). You should have Alessandra Ambrosio, Not an amateur.</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>You'll have dinner with me, won't we? (44c) Steak frites and crepes at caf. Des artistes, just like old (44d) times. I will see you later.</p>				√		√				√					<p>The situation was that Blair knew that Blair was not the model. She accepted the bad news half-heartedly. She told that she hated shoot because it was so boring. Moreover, she recommended that it should be Alessandra Ambrosio who became the model, not an amateur. Then, her mother was relieved with Blair's words and asked to have dinner together. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. Then, the speech features in this datum is neutral words and a tag question in Eleanor's line, you'll have dinner with me, won't you? (44c). The neutral words are happy (44a), boring (44b) and old (44d). The function of gossip is to provide information.</p>

No.	Code	Data	Types				Speech Features					Functions					Explanation
			H T	S D	B I	C H	M P	N W	T Q	R I	R E	I N	E N	F R	I F	S C	
45.	EP4/S 29/P1 11	<p>Blair</p> <p>You actually want me to agree with you.</p> <p>Eleanor</p> <p>Bendel's will legitimize this company. It will take everything to the next (45a) level. You know how hard (45b) I have worked for that. You've always been my biggest(45c) supporter, my biggest (45d) fan.</p> <p>Blair</p> <p>Well (45e), I am your daughter.</p>				√									√		<p>The situation was that Blair finally knew that her mother lied about the model replacement. The truth was that her mother wanted Blair's friend, Serena, to be the model of the photo shoot. Then, Eleanor told the reason why she was lying to her. The project needed perfect model, so it would be perfect if Serena was the one. Her mother would do anything to make the project succeed even she had to lie to her daughter. The type of gossip in this datum is chatting. The speech features are a meaningless particle of well (45e) in Blair's line and neutral words. The neutral words in Eleanor's line are next (45a), hard (45b), biggest (45c) and biggest (45d). The function of gossip is to influence others.</p>
Total			8	3	9	25	45	69	9	0	4	20	4	6	13	2	

Appendix 2. Surat Pernyataan Triangulasi

SURAT PERNYATAAN TRIANGULASI

Yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Asih Widhi Astuti, S.S.

Keterangan : Alumnus Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Universitas
Negeri Yogyakarta

menyatakan bahwa saya telah melakukan triangulasi data pada karya tulis ilmiah
(skripsi) dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Shinta Purnama Sari

NIM : 08211141018

Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

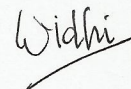
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Judul karya ilmiah : A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Gossip among Female
Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenar-benarnya dan
semoga dapat dipergunakan sebagaimana mestinya.

Yogyakarta, 13 May 2015

Triangulator,



Asih Widhi Astuti, S.S.

SURAT PERNYATAAN TRIANGULASI

Yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Muhamad Basir, S.S.

Keterangan : Alumnus Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Universitas
Negeri Yogyakarta

menyatakan bahwa saya telah melakukan triangulasi data pada karya tulis ilmiah
(skripsi) dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Shinta Purnama Sari

NIM : 08211141018

Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

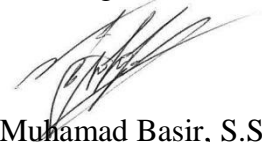
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Judul karya ilmiah : A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Gossip among Female
Characters in *Gossip Girl Season 1*.

Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenar-benarnya dan
semoga dapat dipergunakan sebagaimana mestinya.

Yogyakarta, 17 May 2015

Triangulator,


Muhamad Basir, S.S.